



# SF Indymedia News

Bay Area News & Responses to the Tragedy and Its Aftermath

**Military Contractors Profit, As Usual**  
by Nat Koren

The military-industrial complex will soon make huge profits from a taxpayer-funded increase in Pentagon spending. An article in the New York Times reports on some of the companies involved, and includes quotes from industrial representatives revealing their cynical attitude to making money making war.

Who benefits from war? Certainly not the lives, communities and cultures left shattered by destruction. As usual in times of war, vendors to the military and their stockholders already stand to make a lot of money from Congressionally appropriated funds. And a war has not even started yet. And while millions of people suffer the emotional and economic aftereffects of the Sept. 11 attacks, investors in military stocks are already making profits speculating on the possibility of war.

According to an article in the New York Times on Sept. 22 titled "Beneficiaries of the Military Buildup Await Their Orders," a title with a clever double meaning, the Pentagon has been drawing up a "shopping list" of things it will need to fight a war. It has been contacting its vendors, asking them what they have on hand to supply a war buildup, and how long it will take companies to deliver equipment and supplies.

Included with the article is a series of graphs representing stock prices of eight of the major military contractors, most of which rose in the week of trading after the market reopened following the attacks. The biggest gain was from Raytheon, which makes the Tomahawk cruise missile, among other weapons.

While the financial markets have tumbled recently, the military-industrial complex has been financially strong. Much of this strength is due to Congressional appropriations since the attacks. Out of the \$40 billion emergency spending package approved by Congress on Sept. 14, between \$10 billion and \$15 billion was directed to the Pentagon. The Times does not give a reason for the uncertainty in exact figures, which are possibly classified.

Congress has also approved a massive funding increase for the missile defense program as opposition among the Democrats collapsed. In addition to the emergency spending, The Pentagon is asking Congress for an additional \$15-25 billion to fight a war.

And, in case there was any doubt about Washington's propensity to spend its way to perceived national security, it looks likely that Congress will approve an annual Pentagon budget of \$329 billion for fiscal year 2002, a \$33 billion increase over the previous year.

Where is this money going? In the short term, according to the Times, military planners want to use it for parts and supplies for any near-term military action that might be undertaken. It will

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10/Protestors in Sacramento to Greet George Bush and his Push for "Fast Track" Legislation photo by Michelle



## Upcoming Events / Keeping Informed

If you have upcoming events, let us know by publishing directly to the website calendar or leaving a voicemail at (415) 430-1269 x9506.

**\*National Day to Stop Police Brutality**  
10/22 - 2pm @ 14th St. & Broadway in Oakland  
6th National Day to Stop Police Brutality  
- 12pm in SF, location TBA

**\*Freedom in Jeopardy: Threats to Civil Liberties in the Wake of September 11th**  
10/25 - 7:00-9:00pm @ 2050 Valley Life Sciences Building(VLSB), UC Berkeley campus

## Demonstrations Greet Bush's Sacramento Visit

On October 17th, President Bush rolled into Sacramento to address elite members of the business lobby. Approximately one hundred anti-war protesters marked the occasion with colorful signs and loud chants. While small in comparison to the thousands who have participated in recent Bay Area actions, the vocal crowd represented a significant presence for Sacramento. Police barricaded a sizable radius surrounding Memorial Auditorium, forcing the demonstrators to congregate on successive corners several blocks away. Denied the right to express dissent within a reasonable distance of the presidential festivities, the diverse crowd marched through Sacramento's bustling shopping district, yelling, "Join us, take a stand, stop the bombing of Afghanistan."

A fifty year old woman from Grass Valley explained, "I want the bombing to stop because I'm worried about the children... there is no bomb that is not going to kill innocent people." Posters read "War is the Mother of Terrorism", "Collateral Damage Is Also Terrorism," and "Hate Hurts the Hater." People lined the broad thoroughfare as Bush's motorcade zoomed past, chanting, "Not my president, Not my War." Displaying the variety of perspectives, one man noted, "I voted for him and it's still not my war!"

Across the street, amidst a flag waving contingent clamoring for a glimpse of the presidential limousine, one man jeered at the crowd, "You're as bad as Osama." Verbal clashes had also erupted earlier, as pro-war demonstrators angrily accused the protesters of lacking patriotism- to which some responded, "Peace is Patriotism." In the only confirmed arrest, police seized a woman who had allegedly crossed the

The SF Bay Area Independent Media Center is part of an international network of media centers that seeks to provide an infrastructure for voices distorted or ignored by the corporate media. Find more voices speaking out for true peace, justice and security here:

- www.indymedia.org/
- sf.indymedia.org/
- dc.indymedia.org/
- nyc.indymedia.org/
- www.globalexchange.org/september11/
- www.commondreams.org/
- www.alternet.org/
- www.zmag.org/
- www.adc.org/ (Anti-Arab Discrimination Committee)
- www.rawa.org/
- www.protest.net/
- www.fair.org/

## \*The Role of the Independent Press During Wartime

10/25 - 7pm @ First Unitarian Universalist Church of SF,  
1187 Franklin St. at Geary

## \*March for Human Rights and Peace

10/27 - Meet at Dolores Park for 11 am March.  
Return to Dolores Park for a 1pm Rally

## \*MAZE: Media Alliance Zine Expo

10/28 - 12pm @ ATA

street to converse calmly with her pro-war adversaries.

A comment on one-sided war mongering coverage by the mainstream media, one sign read, "America Shut Off Your TV And Wake Up." Indeed, corporate reporters were noticeably scarce, and the dissenting voices received little airtime amidst copious coverage of the day's Bush related events. Only the local Spanish language station maintained a continued presence at the demonstration.

In addition to contesting U.S. aggressions against the people of Afghanistan, activists also decried Bush's proposed free trade agenda. The president was en route to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Shanghai this week, where he planned to promote his trade policies and congratulate China on its recent entrance into the World Trade Organization. One protester's poster declared "Downsizing Democracy: Fast Track," referring to the controversial trade bill that the Bush administration is currently trying to slide through Congress.

Capitalizing on lawmakers' declarations of bipartisanship in the wake of the September 11th tragedy, Bush is making a renewed attempt to ratify Trade Promotion Authority legislation. Formerly known as Fast-Track, this bill effectively writes Congress out of the trade negotiating process, allowing the president and selected officials to shape far-reaching agreements, such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), with only a quick Congressional nod of consent. After repeated failure to secure the extended presidential powers throughout the Clinton years, the bill fi-

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## Trading Freedom for "Security": On the Anti-Terrorism Legislation

The Fourth Amendment: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

Bombings, anthrax, and war hysteria take center stage in the corporate media, diverting our attention, while legislators rush to pass "Anti-Terrorist" legislation that will take away our Constitutional rights. Politicians and news anchors talk of preserving "freedom and democracy," while the U.S. government uses this tragic time to gain some of the most extensive law enforcement powers in the nation's history, effectively stripping the so-called "freedom" it claims to be defending. Not only the Fourth Amendment is at stake, but also the ability to express political dissent. The legislation gives way for future repression of protest by threatening to round up people with unpopular views. The very fabric of the social justice movement may be undermined as this legislation makes it a crime to "harbor," provide material support, or give "expert advice" to a potential terrorist, possibly causing people to withdraw support of politically radical friends and organizations.

Since the attack on September 11, Attorney General, John Ashcroft has been pressuring congress to quickly pass anti-terrorist legislation that would give law enforcement sweeping new powers. Playing up the fear factor, Ashcroft states, "The American people do not have the luxury of unlimited time in erecting the necessary defenses to future terrorist acts." The legislature has complied by hurriedly passing the Combating Terrorism Act (CTA) on September 13, with only 30 minutes of debate on the floor. The CTA allows the FBI to install internet spying software on ISP's for 48 hours without a court order. In fact, 3 hours after the September 11 attack, the FBI approached ISP's asking them to install an internet spying device called Carnivore.

Since then, Congress has been hastily drafting up additional legislation trying to strike a balance between the constitution and giving law enforcement the additional powers they are demanding. The Senate passed the "Uniting and Strengthening America (USA) Act" (s. 1510) just before midnight on October 11. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) had urged the Senate to reject the USA Act, saying that it poses significantly more danger to civil liberties than the House's draft bill, the "Provide Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept & Obstruct Terrorism (PATRIOT) Act of 2001." The House Judiciary Committee worked out a bi-partisan compromise unanimously passing the PATRIOT act. This bi-partisan version of the PATRIOT Act curtailed some of the troubling aspects of the USA act, such as indefinite detention of immigrants, and added sunset clauses. However, in secret closed-door meetings, the GOP leadership pressured the House to replace the committee's version of the bill with a modified PATRIOT Act that closely resembles the far-reaching USA Act. This new version recently passed in the House, despite many representatives voicing serious objections. The process happened so fast, that some of them weren't even sure what was included in the new bill. Representative David Obey, states, "I do not, and neither do most of the

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*Bush's Visit continued from p. 1, col. 3*

nally passed by a 26-13 vote in the House Ways and Means Committee on October 9th. This far-reaching legislation will likely face a full vote in the House of Representatives next week, possibly paving the way to Senate consideration shortly thereafter.

Much as the federal government is employing the umbrella of "national security measures" to establish Trade Promotion Authority, the Anti-Terrorism Act, and other contentious legislation, local officials used Bush's visit as a pretext for similarly questionable activities. Greyhound was shut down, abruptly stranding unsuspecting busriders. Authorities designated a "Federally Protected Area", thereby excusing denial of public access on the surrounding streets. As police ushered people away, one officer stopped to accost a passerby, gruffly demanding to see the contents of the brown bag he had been sipping from. It was a soda.

In the early morning hours of October 17th, the Capital Area Development Agency (CADA) raided the Ron Mandela Community Garden, seizing the colorful murals that supply supportive information about the landmark. The second largest oxygen supplier to Sacramento's smog infested midtown, the garden has flourished since 1970, diligently cultivated by a variety of local residents, including Food Not Bombs. CADA has long been agitating to bulldoze and develop the tract, and appeared to jump on Bush's visit as an opportunity to continue their crusade. Concerned gardeners liberated the signs from the CADA warehouse shortly after their theft and restored them to the garden.



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from p. 2, col. 1*

Members of this House, have any real idea about what is in this bill or what the consequences are. We know some of the rough outlines; we do not know the details." Representative Maxine Waters says, "The bill before us today is a faulty and irresponsible piece of legislation that undermines our civil liberties and disregards the Constitution of the United States of America." Despite these harsh warnings the bill was passed 337 to 79 on October 12. The 2 bills are so similar, it is not clear if they need to go through a conference committee before being sent to the President for him to sign into law.

The American Civil Liberties Union said that it was "bitterly disappointed" with the passage of this anti-terrorism legislation. The new 175 page bill covers immigration, surveillance, wiretapping, computer hacking, information sharing, obtaining warrants, secret search and seizures, and more. The broad definition of "terrorist offences" within the bill is most troubling. For example, the bill creates a new crime of Domestic Terrorism, defined as activities that, "(A) involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State; and (B) appear to be intended (or to have the effect)-- (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect

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also be used for innocuous-sounding items like repairing the Pentagon and increasing security at military bases.

But as the article points out, there is a large amount left over. The Times suggests that lawmakers and military chiefs will probably want to spend the money on new planes, ships, and other weapons systems made by the same corporations whose stocks rose last week. It would appear to the casual observer that the hardware would not be delivered for several years, and that for corporations in the military-industrial complex, the death and destruction of Sept. 11 are being used as an excuse to reap windfall profits.

Reminiscent of the days of Reaganomics, the spokesman for the National Defense Industrial Association, a trade group representing 900 military contractors large and small, said, "A rising tide lifts all boats." As long as you are a military contractor, that is.

As an example of the cynically rosy outlook for companies making machines of war, an executive proclaimed a positive outlook amid all the fear and hysteria following the Sept. 11 attacks. "The prospects for smart weapons look really favorable," said William J. Frost, an executive at EDO Group of New York, which makes targeting, radar jamming, sonar, and other equipment.

The idea that "smart weapons" will be used in possible military actions obscures the fact that many people will die if these weapons are used. Weapons are not yet smart enough to determine what is real estate and what is a human being.

Equally cynical, yet more chilling, the Times included a quote from an unnamed industry lobbyist. It reveals the low cost of human life to the industry when compared to the wealth created. "This is such a gruesome way to make money," the lobbyist declared.

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the conduct of a government (or any function thereof) by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping (or threat thereof)." This definition of domestic terrorism has the potential to put at risk individuals that use civil disobedience as a form of political protest. A statute of limitations within the bill makes part of it retroactive, and if convicted of a federal terrorism offence you maybe sentenced to life imprisonment.

Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), a media watchdog group, has conducted a study that indicates the television news is glossing over the anti-terrorism legislation. Some news anchors go so far as implying that to stay safe, Americans must give up some civil liberties, although they often neglect to mention which ones they may be giving up. Part of the public's lack of concern, may also be because they lack information on the Bill of Rights. It is recommended to take another look over the Constitution, and contemplate which rights you would be willing to give up. And then, check out the text of the anti-terrorism bill to find out the rights your legislators have already sacrificed at <http://www.house.gov>. Some activists say that they will not let the new legislation deter them from future political protest. In fact, there seems to be an increased urgency in the social justice movement to speak out against injustice despite the increasing danger from a government that now has monumental powers to detain and spy on it's own citizens.