

narmic national action/research on the military industrial complex



A PROJECT OF THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

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Dear Friend of NARMIC,

We recently completed work on our most ambitious project to date--the production of a slide show on the automated air war. It documents how the Administration is changing the nature of the war--bringing ground troops home while maintaining the incredible devastation of Indochina from the air. We are convinced that our most important task in 1972 is to publicize the realities of the air war and to develop the same kind of opposition to it that developed to the ground war in 1968 which forced Johnson to resign and Nixon to withdraw American troops. The American people must be told that the Indochina war will not end and the POWs will not return home until the U.S. ends the air war. We feel the slide show is one effective means to get this message across. We hope you will be encouraged to use the slide in your own community by either purchasing a set yourself or obtaining it from a local group that already has one. We will be happy to supply a list of sets available for rental in your area.

Over four hundred slide shows have been distributed to date. It has been shown on television, at schools, in churches, and to a variety of other audiences. A filmstrip version of the show is being prepared especially for wide distribution to church and school groups.

Developing the slide show and intensive research on the automated battlefield have almost exclusively occupied our time since the early summer. However, in October we published a report on U.S. chemical and biological warfare, "The Budget Gives the Game Away," which received national attention when columnist Flora Lewis picked it up.

We would like to remind you about our book Police on the Homefront which shows how the weapons and strategies developed for pacifying Southeast Asia are being applied in the building of a national police network at home. We also have a new pamphlet called "Soldiers and Strikers." It details a very old form of domestic counterinsurgency: the use of federal and state troops to smash strikes and break up labor demonstrations.

These are the highlights of our recent work. Day-to-day we still respond to a large number of requests for information, help local action projects with research problems, and read the newspapers, military journals, books, and magazines that give us a clue to what is happening.

We hope you will consider becoming a NARMIC member if you are not already one. If you are already one, we'd appreciate your passing on the membership blank on the back of the green literature list to a sympathetic friend. Exposing the military-industrial complex is a continuing task, and we continue to need your support.

Regards,

The NARMIC Staff

opinion

The following article, based largely on the Automated Air War slide show, was prepared by a NARMIC staff member in conjunction with the week-long Corporate War Crimes Investigation sponsored by the Honeywell Project in Minneapolis.

By ARTHUR KANEGIS

Honeywell: Switches pulled in Minneapolis make death in Southeast Asia

"I pulled the commit switch and the computer dropped the bombs. I never saw the people below or the blood. My job was to eliminate a blip on a radar screen." This is how Randy Floyd, former A6 Intruder pilot, describes his part in the new automated air war that is replacing U.S. ground troops in Vietnam.

Movement in the jungle is relayed by electronic sensors to computers which select targets and relay the coordinates to airborne computers for automated bombing of the countryside.

Advanced aircraft can be switched to auto-pilot for automated control from takeoff to bombing to landing. The high rate of equipment failure and crashes, however, prompts the Air Force to retain the pilot on board to protect the expensive aircraft.

Motorola Corp., among others, is working to eliminate the bugs so that the pilot can stay on the ground in a secure computer station and pilot the aircraft via a telemetry link.

When RPV's (remotely piloted vehicles) take over the bombing runs, the separation of U.S. forces from their victims will be all but complete.

Gen. William Westmoreland in November 1969 outlined three reasons for automating the battlefield: the public was demanding that the GIs come

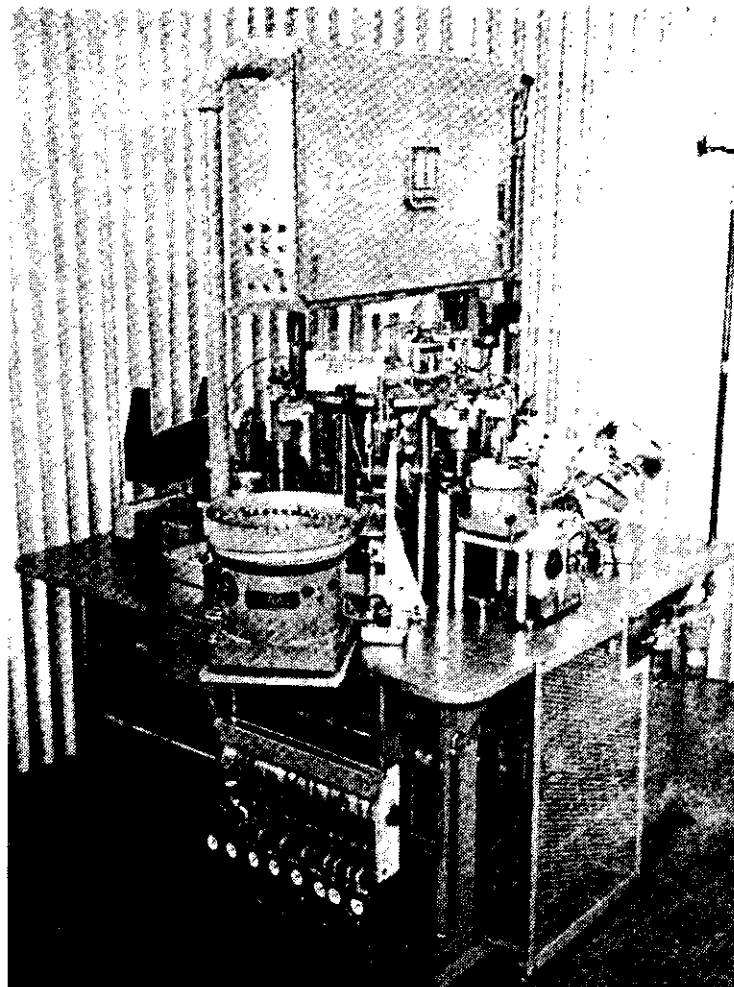


WIDE AREA COVERAGE IS DESIGNED FOR AREA-DENIAL PURPOSES.

students, employes, and taxpayers, and if we can learn the criminal nature of this less visible but deadly electronic war, then perhaps we can disassemble

excellent results have been obtained by this blind bombing method."

This blind bombing is based on signals from sensors that cannot



ONE OF 20 HONEYWELL MACHINES USED TO MANUFACTURE THE WAAPM

devices, radar altimeters, and a helmet-mounted sight to automatically target whatever the pilot looks at.

But Honeywell's proudest achievement is the "area type ordnance" so crucial to the automated battlefield. As Honeywell told the U.S. Army Munitions Command:

"Honeywell's ordnance division has been involved in munition R and D and production for many years, and has an excellent record of carrying these munitions and munition components through

Honeywell did not become a giant in the munitions field by waiting for the government to come up with ideas for weapons and strategies for their application in Southeast Asia. Honeywell takes the initiative.

As a Honeywell promotional brochure put it: "Honeywell's capability" in automated warfare "...is based on experience gained through a performance of a variety of requirements analysis and concept formulation programs. Foremost among these was the area denial feasibility study

wires several feet from the mine. The Vietnamese call it a "spider bomb." To touch one of its wire tentacles triggers death. Millions of WAAPMs, "seeded" over the countryside, are only a small part of Honeywell's profitable "area denial" program.

Honeywell also received a \$10,000 research contract to develop the BLU-52 chemical bomb. As the electronic battlefield hearings put it: "After the bomb is released, the thin-skinned bomb case breaks open on impact with the ground, spreading its contents over a wide area..."

"CS-2, a form of "tear gas", will last 30-45 days. Riot control agents are non-hazardous. Their effects are nausea, choking and copious weeping."

Since few choose to choke and weep for a month and a half, this persistent CS is quite effective as an area denial agent.

In December 1970 the U.N. General Assembly voted 80-3 (only Portugal and Australia voted with the U.S.) that the use of tear gas and herbicides in war is a violation of international law, i.e., a war crime.

Honeywell also makes the SUU 41 dispenser for the Gravel mine, a three-inch square of green cloth that the Laotians call a "leaf mine." Board Chairman Binger told the Minneapolis Tribune that these are "designed to be used against conventional military targets. Honeywell does not manufacture a weapon to be used against civilians."

However, the Senate electronic battlefield hearings report: "Gravel was originally procured by DCPG (the military command that developed the automated battlefield) to be used as an anti-personnel area-denial munition...The only kill mechanism is blast, Gravel will blow a man's foot off but it will not blow a hole in a truck tire."

Article 23 of the Hague Convention—the international rules of war—states: "It is especially forbidden...to employ arms, projectiles, or material calculated to cause unnecessary suffering." The U.S. is a party to this convention, it is constitutionally binding on the U.S. Then why are the corporations and the military designing weapons purposely made to maim people? The answer is that the military believes such maiming of the opposition serves two important functions.

First, it means that instead of a single person dead and withdrawn from military activity, six to ten people must care for the victim.

Second, the military calculates that the suffering of the living has a greater demoralizing effect than the memory of the dead. As Aviation Week puts it, anti-personnel weapons have a "separate and distinguishable psychological impact...apart from the actual destruction which they cause."

Because of its power, with annual sales greater than the GNP of the world's nations, it is unlikely that Honeywell will face trial for its war crimes. But just as the military discovered that its power rested on the support of the GIs, so Honeywell's power lies in the support we give it.

We support it by not speaking out, by buying Honeywell thermostats and cameras, by doing war-related research in our universities, by loaning Honeywell money through stocks, by paying taxes to pay for Honeywell's contracts, and by working in Honeywell plants.

If the people working in the corporations can begin to see the effects of their work as clearly as the Vietnam GIs, saw theirs, then perhaps, similarly, a powerful movement against corporate criminal activity can begin within their plants.

KEY RESOURCES ON THE AUTOMATED AIR WAR

AIR WAR: THE THIRD INDOCHINA WAR. Available for \$1.50 from Indochina Resource Center, 1322 18th Street, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Crammed with documented material on the air war including photographs, charts, government statistics, drawings by bombing victims, and recent newspaper and magazine articles, in a form useful for preparing layout for leaflets and articles. Lists key resource groups and materials.

THE AIR WAR IN INDOCHINA, ELECTRONIC BATTLEFIELD, CORPORATE COMPLICITY: INFORMATION/ACTION PACKET. Available from New England Action/Research on the Military-Industrial Complex (NEARMIC), 48 Inman Street, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. \$2.00.

Contains material on the air war, plus an outstanding selection of material on corporations in New England which are involved in automated air war production.

"A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE HONEYWELL BUSINESS WORLD". Available from the Honeywell Project, 529 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.

Describes Honeywell's air war production: anti-personnel weapons and production for the electronic battlefield.

WAR WITHOUT END by Michael Klare. Alfred A. Knopf, 1972. (May)

Gives important information on automated warfare and counterinsurgency efforts around the world.

THE DRAGON GOES NORTH: CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE TESTING IN ALASKA, by Richard Fineberg. McNally and Loftin, 1972

Contains substantial NARMIC information on the continuation of CBW efforts despite Presidential denials.

THE BACKSEAT GENERALS.

Documents the CIA role in the war in Laos, particularly in the training of Meo tribesmen. A highlight is an interview with a 10 year old Meo boy who has been conscripted into the army. Done by English TV group. Contact American Friends Service Committee, 160 N. 15th Street, Phila. Pa. 19102 for information on availability.

McDONNELL FILM. Available from 4372 Westminster, St. Louis, Mo. 63108

Through interviews with workers laid off by McDonnell-Douglas (contractors for the F-4) the film reveals some of the connections between unemployment, war production and social problems.

The Indochina Resource Center (address above) has three important films on the air war. Two were made in North Vietnam; one depicts anti-personnel weapons and their effects on the other concerns the use of herbicides and CS gas. The third film by the U.S. Air Force shows the effects of the 7-1/2 ton "Cheeseburger" bomb used in Indochina.

WINTER SOLDIER INVESTIGATION II (BOSTON). 5 Videotapes. Available from Earthlite Video, 345 Broadway, Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

Testimony from Vietnam Veterans about the automated air war, much of it from men who themselves participated.

HONEYWELL WAR CRIMES HEARINGS. Videotape available from Honeywell Project, 529 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn. 55401.

This hearing exposes Honeywell's extensive anti-personnel weapons manufacturing.