ALTERNATIVES TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS

MARINE ENERGY & NEW EMPLOYMENT

In 2009 the TUC called for a Just Transition to a low carbon green economy that is job rich, high in research and development and could generate exports.

Wind and marine energy has this potential. Britain's shores are pounded by Atlantic waves, its inlets, bays and estuaries have some of the biggest tidal surges and strongest currents in the world.

All this represents a huge source of untapped resources which can help meet our carbon reduction targets, utilise our engineering and design skills and provide new jobs for thousands of workers.

Currently Britain has more businesses developing tidal stream and wave power technologies than any other country.

However marine technology, unlike wind and solar energy, is not yet fully mature. Small scale wave and tidal projects are currently being established in the Pentland Firth and off the coast of Orkney. These will be followed by much larger projects from 2015 and large scale deployment from 2020. This indicates a forthcoming boom in construction, installation and maintenance at the time when construction work on the Astute Class submarines will be tailing off at Barrow.

In the absence of further naval shipbuilding orders, these yards could be adapted with some investment to build equipment to harness wind and marine power. A similar transformation took place in shipyards all over Britain in the 1970s and 80s with the boom in building platforms for the North Sea oil and gas industry.

Thus there is vast potential for shipyards like Barrow to become major centres for the design and manufacture of wave and tidal turbines. The skills that are needed for complex submarine and shipbuilding, such as steel working and engineering and marine design expertise are similar to those required for marine energy developments.

If we invest the money saved by cancelling Trident, we could make the UK a world leader in wave and tidal power technology and create hundreds of thousands of new jobs in Britain, vastly overcompensating for jobs lost by scrapping Trident.

NEW HOUSING TO CREATE HOMES & JOBS

The Barker Report on Housing (2004) called for an extra 120,000 houses a year to overcome the UK housing shortage and bring the market into balance. The report also called for an additional 23,000 completions per year in the (government financed) social housing sector. Since then, overall house building completions have fallen from 170,000 in 2003 to 80,000 in 2010. Current government projections for social housing to 2015 are for 6,000 completions a year in England & Wales (UCATT press release 4 July 2011).

£3.1 billion a year - the amount currently spent on Trident - would pay for approximately 31,000 houses and create employment directly in construction and through the supply chain for 62,000 people in a single year (see bar chart on page1).

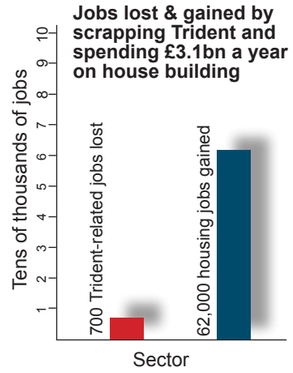
In other words if the capital costs for Trident replacement were used for housing it would enable the government to reach the minimum targets required to address social need.

We need houses more than nuclear weapons. Join CND in the campaign to end the wasting of billions of pounds of taxpayers' money that could better be spent on jobs, pensions, education and health. We can improve the lives of the British people without threatening the lives of others.

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, 162 Holloway Road, London N7 8DQ 020 7700 2393 www. cnduk.org

THE GREAT TRIDENT JOB THREAT

What we stand to lose if we don't scrap Trident - the destruction of British jobs

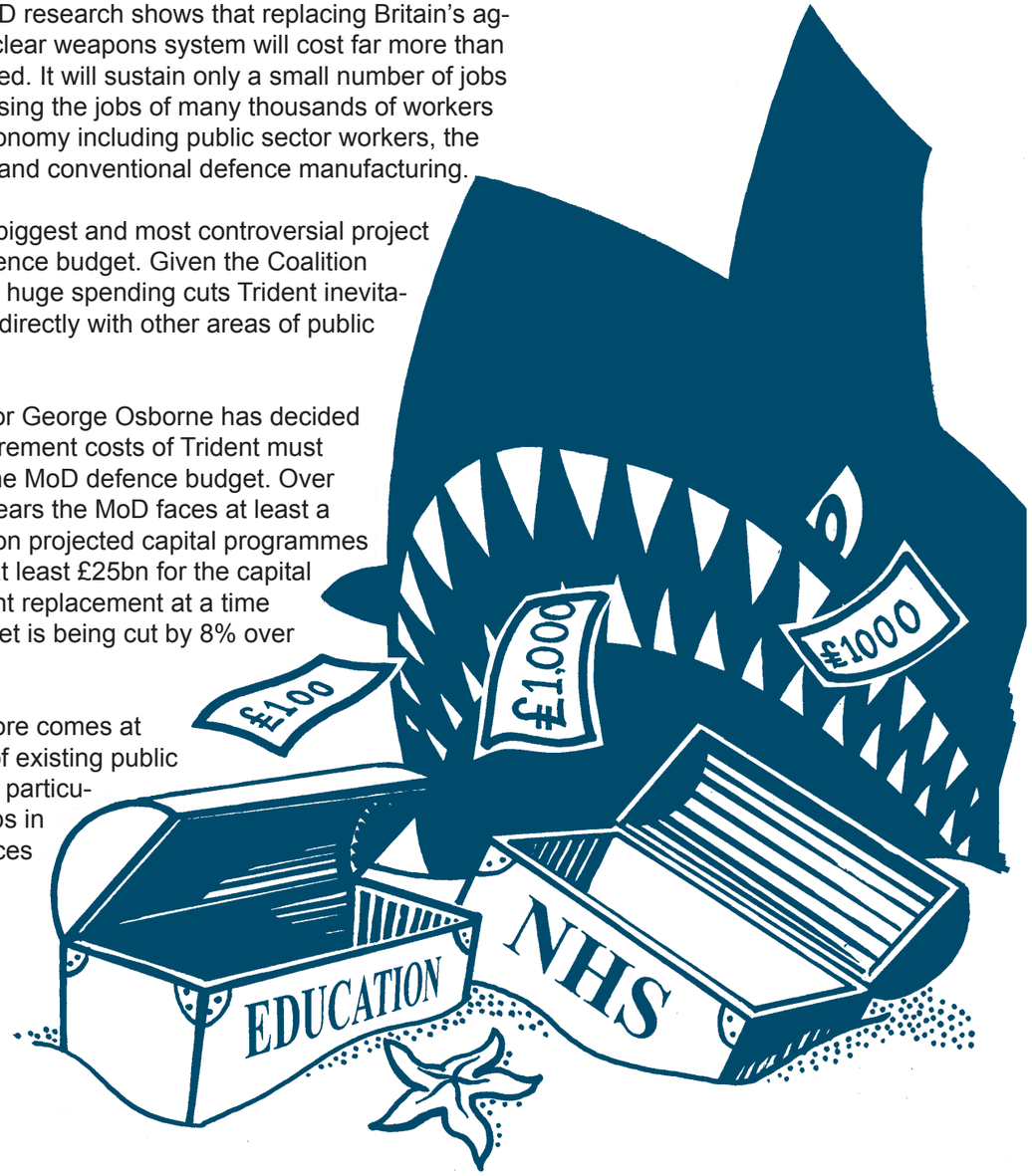


New CND research shows that replacing Britain's aging nuclear weapons system will cost far more than expected. It will sustain only a small number of jobs while jeopardising the jobs of many thousands of workers across the economy including public sector workers, the armed forces and conventional defence manufacturing.

Trident is the biggest and most controversial project in the UK Defence budget. Given the Coalition Government's huge spending cuts Trident inevitably competes directly with other areas of public spending.

The Chancellor George Osborne has decided that the procurement costs of Trident must come out of the MoD defence budget. Over the next ten years the MoD faces at least a £43bn deficit on projected capital programmes and a bill for at least £25bn for the capital costs of Trident replacement at a time when its budget is being cut by 8% over four years.

Trident therefore comes at the expense of existing public sector jobs, in particular existing jobs in the armed forces and defence sector.



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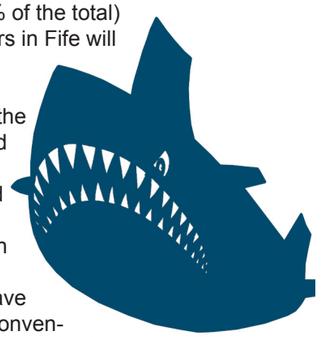
THE TRIDENT ATTACK ON THE DEFENCE SECTOR

CUTS IN DEFENCE JOBS

In October 2010 the Coalition Government, as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), announced defence cuts which had more to do with meeting targets for deficit reduction rather than a 'strategic' review of Britain's actual defence needs in the 21st century.

Since then the Defence Secretary has announced additional cuts in armed forces personnel. 29,000 armed forces jobs will go by 2020, most of them in the next 5 years. The size of the army will be cut from 101,000 to 82,000 and the navy and air force by 5,000 each. 25,000 civilian MoD jobs (40% of the total) will go and RAF Kinloss in Moray and RAF Leuchars in Fife will be closed as airbases with up to 4,400 job losses.



Cuts in the orders for new combat aircraft such as the Joint Strike Fighter and the scrapping of the Nimrod programme and the Harrier jet fleet have led BAE Systems to announce over 1,300 job losses spread between the Woodford factory in Greater Manchester where 700 jobs are being cut and Warton in Lancashire and other factories where a further 650 jobs are likely to disappear. Defence contractors have estimated that 15,000 - 20,000 jobs will be lost in conventional defence manufacturing as a result of defence budget cuts.

THE RISING COST OF TRIDENT

The original £11-14 billion capital cost for Trident was itself a gross underestimate. In May 2011 Defence Secretary Liam Fox told MPs that the ultimate capital cost of Trident is likely to be £25bn - twice the original estimate. Of this the MoD estimates that it will spend £8bn over the next 10 years. This will not include the cost of warheads or the leasing of Trident missiles from the US.

Nor does this estimate include the increased running costs of £1.5bn a year or the almost £1bn a year spent on upgrading the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) at Aldermaston. Some of the increased procurement costs come from the decision to design and build a new nuclear propulsion system - the Pressurised Water Reactor 3 (PWR3). The new reactor is expected to cost at least an additional £50m per submarine as compared with its predecessor.

Cost overrun appears to be the rule rather than the exception with MoD projects. The current Astute Class submarine programme is 53% over budget and 57 months late. And the 'concept' or initial phase of the new Trident programme is already 84% over budget which does not bode well for the future of the new project. Such an overspend would only result in further drastic cuts.

If it goes ahead, the new Trident system could end up costing us over £100bn. This is an obscene amount of money that we can not afford at this time of deep spending cuts.

TRIDENT – IT'S NOT A DONE DEAL!

In October 2010 David Cameron announced that the decision on whether to replace Trident would be postponed by four years. The final decision to go ahead with the system, the Main Gate decision, will not be taken until 2016. Trident will, therefore, remain a live political issue up to and beyond the next General Election. There is ample time to build a broad anti-Trident alliance to scrap Trident.

Courtesy of Peter Brooks

DIVERSIFYING JOBS AWAY FROM TRIDENT

BARROW-IN-FURNESS

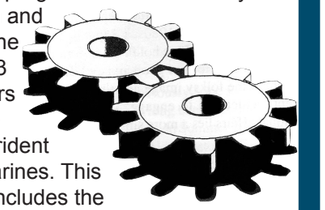
The biggest concentration of Trident-related production jobs is the BAE shipyard at Barrow-in-Furness. As the biggest employer, the shipyard employs around 5,000 people. Barrow is Britain's only specialised submarine manufacturing yard and is currently halfway through building seven Astute Class submarines.

If Trident were to be scrapped the current Astute building programme could be slowed down so that a core workforce could be retained at least until 2020. In addition, the yard could adapt to building surface ships, especially in new niche markets such as ultra fuel-efficient ships to transport freight and deep water drilling ships for use in oil exploration. The skills of the workforce could be adapted to the manufacture of turbines to harness marine and wind.

Thousands of new jobs in the Barrow area could be created by funding the existing local regeneration plan - the new waterfront development and Marina Village - currently on hold since the withdrawal of funding in July 2010. Finally, a government-led defence diversification plan with real resources, early planning and trade union and community involvement could ensure that few if any jobs were lost in the event of nuclear submarine construction at Barrow coming to an end.

ROLLS ROYCE DERBY

Currently 1,200 workers are employed producing nuclear propulsion units for the Astute programme and are likely to design and build the PWR-3 reactors for the new Trident submarines. This work includes the provision of heavy pressure vessels, nuclear cores and steam raising capacity. The technology is similar to that used in civil nuclear power production. The majority of these skills could be absorbed into the wider economy.



AWE ALDERMASTON

4,350 people are currently employed at Aldermaston and Burghfield. Many of these skills are in engineering project management, IT, applied mathematics and physics and have remained in short supply even during the recession. Most of the current jobs at Aldermaston would be required till the end of the current Trident programme in 2024. Even if this programme was suspended early, a large workforce would still be required for several years to dismantle warheads and decommission nuclear facilities. Other staff could be retained by expanding AWE's work on verification and non-proliferation. The research expertise at AWE could be applied to other work, for example conventional defence and civil nuclear activities.

CND

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FASLANE NAVAL BASE

This is the administrative headquarters for Royal Navy Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland. It is the base for eight Sandown class mine hunters and for all Royal Navy submarines including Swiftsure, Trafalgar and from 2011 Astute as well as the four Vanguard Trident submarines. According to the Defence Minister, Des Browne, in 2009 only 589 jobs at the Clyde Naval base were directly dependent on Trident. 541 of these were in Coulport, mainly secirity. This indicates that most of the jobs at Faslane are not unique to Trident and could be sustained if the Vanguard Class submarines were phased out to co-incide with the build up of the seven new Astute Class subs.
Under the US Base Realignment and Closure programme (BRAC), planning for alternative uses of bases and defence dependent communities must be initiated five years before closure. If this model were followed in the UK, and real resources were allocated, then very few jobs need be lost.

SUBCONTRACTORS

Trident subcontractor McTaggart Scott produces submarine masts and employs 250 workers. Weir, Strachan and Henshaw employs 500 workers and supplies weapons handling and launch systems for conventional weapons on submarines. Altogether up to 1,000 jobs may be vulnerable in subcontracting firms in the event of Trident cancellation. However these skilled workers could also be absorbed into the wider economy.