

John Ainslie

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Re: [TP] US intends to reduce nuclear presence in Europe

Dear friends,
the news about possibly changes to US nukes in Europe comes from a statement made by General Jones (he's the military commander of NATO and US forces in Europe) in the Belgian Senate on March 9th. One story appeared in the newspaper La Libre Belgique:
--

Gen. Jones' remarks, in a testimony to a Belgian Senate Committee Tuesday, are generating interest.
"Gen. Jones said in Brussels Tuesday the United States will significantly reduce its nuclear weapons in Europe," reports La Libre Belgique. The article adds that responding to queries by Belgian senators regarding the presence of nuclear weapons in Belgium and the risk of a U.S. plane carrying nuclear weapons crashing on Belgian soil, Gen. Jones said: "The reduction will be significant. Good news is on the way." The article notes that while not explicitly mentioning nuclear weapons at Kleine Brogel, Gen. Jones confirmed that in the post-Cold War era, the United States had other priorities. Stressing, however, that the presence of nuclear weapons at Kleine Brogel is an open secret, the article adds: "The U.S. plan mentioned by Gen. Jones is on a much larger scale since it aims at a worldwide redeployment of U.S. forces... Gen. Jones also insisted on deep changes within NATO. Missions have changed. Yesterday's enemy—the USSR and the Warsaw Pact—has collapsed... The threat now comes from drug trafficking, terrorist networks and criminal organizations. 'We have too many forces with a defensive character. We need ... proactive forces able to intervene globally,' Gen. Jones said.
--

This is all part of the ongoing discussion within the Pentagon and EUCOM (US command in Europe) about the US forces in Europe. See <http://washingtontimes.com/commentary/20040403-100449-5310r.htm> for background info.
Put simply, there will be a shift away from the big bases in Germany and "old Europe", and towards more flexible "lilly-pad" bases in Eastern Europe and elsewhere around the world.
All of this could also have a major impact on USAF Lakenheath in Suffolk, where the US has several nuclear weapons, (see www.lakenheathaction.org for more info), or other US bases in the UK such as Fairford. However it is highly unlikely that NATO nuclear policy will change, and as such we still have some way to go to achieving meaningful and lasting nuclear disarmament- even if the nuclear weapons are withdrawn from Belgium or other countries.

I'll let you all know when we get more news, and of course if there are things to celebrate you'll all get an invitation to the party!

in peace,


At 15:15 05/04/04, you wrote:

>In amongst all the news in this months "greenpeace internal
>nuclear campaign update" in the "good news" section, was
>this:
>
>"Top NATO Commander states that US intends to reduce nuclear
>presence in Europe"
>
>I am trying to find out more about that at present, and will
>update you with what I find. Maybe others know about it
>already but I didnt and thats pretty significant!