

Australia came one step closer to becoming the Westernmost state of the USA this month when it announced that it will take part in the US Star Wars program.

This makes Australia the first country to officially join the US in its military space adventureism.

While Australian Defence Minister Robert Hill claims that Australia will only be a bit player, providing research and development, it is well understood that Australia's major contribution will be through the US controlled space base at Pine Gap near Alice Springs.

This decision by the Australian Government puts a great strain on Australia's international relations and increases our vulnerability as a target.

Now more than ever, when American foreign policy is coming under attack from all quarters and no other country in the world is prepared to back the US, the Australian Government should show some backbone and refuse to continue playing the role of Deputy Dog in the Asia Pacific region.

But the Government aren't the only ones to blame. The opposition ALP's newly elected leader, Mark Latham, who recently referred to GW Bush as dangerous, visited the US Ambassador Tom Schiffer the other day looking like he was walking funny: Both Government & opposition are now in a race to prove who can be seen on TV surrounded by the most American flags this week.

As Australians, we are ashamed that our elected representatives are seen by the rest of the world as US stooges.

Ashamed that in our names, a new escalation of the regional arms race has been assured.

Ashamed that our land, resources and research will be used for a front project that has no possibility of reaching its stated objective.

Ashamed that this decision will lead to further exploitation of the planet and its people.

The so called 'missile defence' plan is a sham. Nothing more than Orwellian doublespeak for the Military Industrial Complex's real stated agenda of the Domination of Space. Australia's participation in this latest incarnation of Manifest Destiny must be exposed for what it is and stopped.

OzPeace, as an Australian affiliate of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, calls on all opposition political parties to stop the Government implementing this decision.

We call on all grass roots and community organisations to join with us in opposing this rush to mutually assured destruction.

To register your opposition to Australia's involvement in the Star Wars program, send a letter to Defence Minister Robert Hill and Foreign Affairs Minister, Alexander Downer [by clicking here](#).

All letters will be presented in Parliament.

Below are links to everything you wanted to know about the issue but were afraid to ask.

[some of these links are to .pdf files - get Acrobat Reader here for free](#)

Press Releases:

[Defence Minister Robert Hill's Press Release](#)

[Foreign Minister Alexander Downer's Press Release](#)

[OzPeace Press Release](#)

[Global Network Press Release](#)

Aust Govt Briefing Paper on Missile Defence:

[Vital Shield or Modern Day Maginot Line \(Dec2000\)](#)

[Vital Development or Strategic Snake Oil \(Aug 2003\)](#)

Press Articles on Australian Decision:

[Sydney Morning Herald 5 Dec 2003](#)

[Swiss Info](#)

[Herald Sun 5 Dec 2003](#)

[Straits Times - Singapore 6 Dec 2003](#)

[Radio Netherlands 4 Dec 2003](#)

[ABC-AM 05 Dec 2003](#)

Pine Gap

[OzPeace archives \(from the old site\)](#)

What is Missile Defence

[Yorkshire CND](#)

[Victorian Peace Network](#)

[NuclearFiles.Org \(a thorough overview\)](#)

OzPeace at the International Peace Pilgrimage Conference

[Peace Pilgrimage](#)

Speech by Dr Michio Kaku at GN Conference

[Michio Kaku in Melbourne](#)

US Military Documents

[Rumsfeld Report January 2001](#)

[Air Force Space Command Strategic Master Plan 2004](#)

[Us Space Command Vision 2020](#)

[US Defense Dept Space Technology Guide 2001](#)

[Air University Library Space Bibliography](#)

[Space Weapons - Earth Wars Rand Corp 2002](#)

[Why & Wither Hypersonic Research -USAF](#)

[Joint Theatre Missile Defense](#)

[Protection of Space Assets](#)

[Air University \(USAF\) Spacecast 2000 \(external\)](#)

**Australia - US Military Agreements**

[ANZUS Agreement](#)

[Status of US Forces Agreement](#)

[Pine Gap Head Agreement](#)

[Pine Gap 1977 Renewal](#)

[Pine Gap 1988 Renewal](#)

[Pine Gap 1998 - current Renewal](#)

**Aust Government Report**

[Report 26 - on the Pine Gap 1998 Renewal](#)