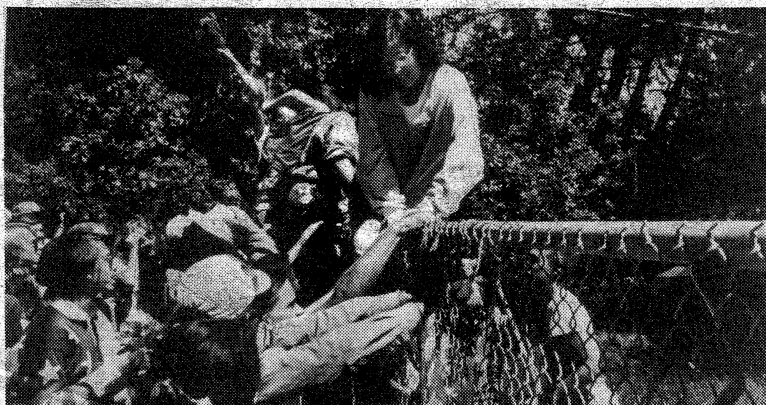


# Lockheed's Open Door Policy



83 activists stormed the gate publicly, as many have done it secretly

Elizabeth Kadetsky

Jason Schwartz had been hiking through the grounds of the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company Santa Cruz facility for a number of hours before he encountered a warehouse-style building, the work-site of a small team of aerospace employees busily entering data into computer terminals. Schwartz, his only credentials those of a taxpayer, let himself into the building and addressed the group.

"I let them know, although they were all good workers, they were going to have to be laid off," explains Schwartz, a UCSC graduate student in social psychology and a longtime peace activist who, at that moment in November 1988, was facing imminent arrest on charges of trespassing onto a security-sensitive, government-contracting weapons testing and production facility. "I told them, as their employer, I didn't feel like their work was productive, and unfortunately I was going to have to lay them off. But," he adds, "I'd help them find decent jobs."

Schwartz and affiliates of the local First Strike Prevention Project routinely and illegally crawl through the gates to Lockheed's 4,400-acre base for encounters such as this. The group's annual protests at the perimeter of the facility, like the one last Wednesday at which 83 demonstrators went to jail after jumping over the surrounding fence, garner dutiful media attention. This lesser-known aspect of their activism, however, receives curious little comment, especially from the corporation subject to their odd brand of break-in.

Sitting smack at the end of Empire Grade Road in Bonny Doon, 16 windy miles outside of Santa Cruz, at first glance the gated, guarded property seems impervious to the aimless intruder. But according to members of the group, a total of over 80 activists

have penetrated the facility on more than a dozen occasions over the past two years. Sheriff's deputies don't dispute the claim.

Often in broad daylight, they confront employees, disperse anarchist and anti-nuclear literature, and sometimes walk into buildings to survey production facilities, machinery and, on one occasion, even stumbled upon a set of engineer's photographs labeled "competition sensitive." They have explored the wooded grounds enough so that they often know the terrain better than the guards and sheriff's deputies who come to retrieve them. They have seen enough of Lockheed's machinery and employees to estimate what the plant is producing, assessments far more specific than the company has ever made public. And, in the event that Lockheed would dispute the volume of their trespasses, they have arrest records to prove many of their stories.

Lockheed doesn't exactly dispute the story. Company spokesperson Bob Burgess, on the phone from Sunnyvale headquarters, would simply rather not talk about it. He admits that on the evening before last Wednesday's protest a mysterious intruder or intruders littered anti-nuclear stickers throughout the grounds. Is this a regular sort of discovery? I wonder aloud, a comment that sets off a conversation riddled with "It may be" and "It could have happened."

Burgess shies from verifying any of the protesters' individual claims, meanwhile refusing requests for a referral to a better-informed source. He finally concludes on the note, "This is a matter for the sheriff. We will not discuss it."

This isn't the only thing Lockheed won't discuss. Burgess doesn't want to talk about the implications of these trespasses. What is the

possibility, for instance, that a more malicious intruder with a more sophisticated understanding of weapons documents might discover this easy access into the bowels of a foremost U.S. arms producer? Is this a matter of concern, I wonder, for company security? National security?

"Obviously," Burgess responds, "when people violate private property rights, it's a matter of concern for the landowners." And have you asked for a district attorney's investigation? "We will not discuss it."

(The district attorney's office reports that there has never been an investigation into Lockheed trespasses. "What could we do?" asks Chief Deputy DA Jon Hopkins. "Post guards every 10 feet so you can investigate who snuck over the fence last night?")

Lockheed management is equally reticent about the work taking place beyond the 10-foot gate at the end of Empire Grade. Responding to routine questions from this reporter, spokesperson Burgess would give no specifics. The only thing clear about the Santa Cruz arm of the behemoth Lockheed Corporation is that it participates in the testing and production of the Trident II D-5 Missile. Lockheed holds the foremost contract with the U.S. government for this missile, a weapon with first-strike capability that is considered an integral component of the "strategic modernization" of the ballistic missile force.

Beyond that, the nature of their travail is up for speculation—or investigation by any semi-athletic muckraker with the gall to commit a break-in for purposes of eating away the corporation's secrecy policy. But even the term, break-in, doesn't reflect the simplicity of the task. FSPP member Bill Pratt, who went on "back country" endeavors twice in the past year, frowns when this reporter questions, "You mean you *break in*?"

"It's not exactly a break-in," he responds. "There's a three-strand barbed wire fence and you crawl through the fence. It's crawling through a fence."

Schwartz, recounting his second expedition into Lockheed, is equally blasé when asked if he felt any trepidation about walking into unlocked storage sheds, one of which he claims contained documents related to the Minuteman missile. "I'd already been on the grounds for two hours, so I wasn't worried about trespassing," he says. "I didn't take anything, so I wasn't burgling. And I didn't break and enter, because the door was open." •