

LTCCP Submission

by Anti Bases Campaign
c/o Murray Horton, 21 Kipling Street, Christchurch

We submit the following points:

1. We commend Christchurch for declaring itself a Peace City. According the CCC website:

In July 2002 Christchurch City Councillors voted in favour of declaring Christchurch a Peace City. This was seen as a way for Christchurch to celebrate its peace history, as many people involved in the peace movement and some of the movement's peace initiatives started in Christchurch.

This decision was a way to show our city's commitment to actively contribute to a more peaceful future, through a range of initiatives, starting with new strategies for a more peaceful community, the development of education programmes, and the promotion of peace, non-violence and respect for all citizens.

(<http://www.ccc.govt.nz/Christchurch/PeaceCity>)

2. The strategic vision in the LTCCP should strongly reflect this position rather than remain silent.
3. The Council in order to fulfilment its commitment to the peace city resolution should:
 - a. set out what services, funding, and projects it will support
 - b. set measures and targets to show and monitor progress
4. One target we would like included in the LTCCP is the removal of the Harewood US Military Base from Christchurch.
5. While the ABC acknowledges the positive impact and supports the peaceful, non-military operations associated to the Antarctic programme, it expresses deep concern at the provision of a US Military base in our city.
6. The US Military is extensively involved in violent, non-peaceful activities. By allowing a US base in our city, we are complicit in supporting those activities.
7. The Iraq Body Count website documents that a minimum of 34711 and a maximum of 38861 citizens have been reported killed due to military intervention in Iraq since the start of the war and occupation. According to John Sloboda (Iraq Body Count Cofounder) *"the illegal US-led invasion of March and April 2003 resulted in 7,312 civilian deaths and 17,298 injured in a mere 42 days."*
(<http://www.iraqbodycount.org/press/pr13.php>)
8. The deliberate attempt to use violent, non-peaceful measures to attack other countries such as Iraq is completely contrary to the CCC's objective to be a peace city.

We would like to be heard in support of our submission.

Attachment 1- Background Information on Harewood

Operation Deep Freeze, the American military base at Christchurch Airport

The American military occupation of Christchurch International Airport (Harewood) has its roots in the 1950s. The scientific International Geophysical Year (1957-58) brought military air and logistics support in the form of the US Navy and Air Force. The Navy left in 1998, but the Air Force continues its military/intelligence support operations to this day. The American military operates under the cover the Antarctic Agreement of 1961. Both overt and covert military and intelligence support operations that have little or no relationship to Antarctic science and logistics (Operation Deep Freeze) have gone on for years both in Christchurch and Antarctica. The New Zealand government has never questioned the scope of US military activities at Christchurch – the only Australasian city to host a foreign base within its bounds.

The US government regards the US area at the airport as sovereign US territory and not subject to NZ law. New Zealanders in the employ of the US military engaged in Antarctic logistics have long been denied the option of belonging to a trade union in their own country. Customs and agriculture officials may not set foot on any American military aircraft; they too are sovereign US territory under international law.

Military research in the Southern Hemisphere and in the Antarctic was frequently supported from Operation Deep Freeze in violation of the spirit, if not the letter, of the Antarctic Treaty. The USAF Air Mobility Command (formerly the Military Airlift Command) supports Antarctic operations in the southern summer. But its large Starlifter and Galaxy cargo aircraft also supply vital US military/intelligence bases in Australia (such as Pine Gap) year-round with several flights a month through Christchurch. This has gone on since the early 1960s with the planes covered by the American neither-confirm-nor-deny nuclear weapons policy – the same policy that saw US Navy ships banned by law from New Zealand since 1987. The NZ government gives these aircraft annual blanket clearance for unlimited flights and no questions asked.

Despite New Zealand having been expelled from ANZUS since the 1980s and supposedly frozen out of a direct military relationship with the US, because of our nuclear free stance, there has never been the slightest suggestion from the US of it relocating or closing the Harewood base. Why? Because it values having a medium level multi-purpose US military transport base in New Zealand. Harewood has always been the only actual US military base in NZ, as opposed to specialist installations. The US values having a sovereign base here, and it has served as host for all manner of US military and political figures for decades, to the very highest level of the US Government. From CIA Director Richard Helms in the 1970s to President Bill Clinton in 1999, they've all come to Harewood.