

# SAY NO TO THE MILITARIZATION OF WEST WALES

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) consultation being carried out by the Welsh Assembly Government hopes to get public endorsement for a testing zone in the skies above 500 sq miles of West Wales. This area includes Cardigan, Aberaeron, Newcastle Emlyn, Lampeter Tregaron and Llanwrtyd Wells. **They want us to agree with their plan and are emphasizing future civilian uses of UAVs and benefits to the Welsh economy.**



Hermes 450 UAV

**Don't believe the spin!** The main focus of UAV development at Parc Aberporth will continue to be military. The fly zone will allow military UAV drone flights over our heads any time day or night to test spying, attack and collision avoidance systems. Far fewer jobs than promised have been created and predictions of abundant jobs for local people are pie in the sky.

## How are UAVs used?

- **US Predator UAVs** are used in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan and have killed thousands of civilians, with laser-guided bombs and missiles often controlled and piloted from a base in Nevada, USA.
- **Israel used UAVs** in its attack on Palestinians in Gaza in 2008/9. The Israeli Hermes 450 military UAV was demonstrated at Aberporth in 2002.
- **The British Military** is to use the Hermes 450 as part of its £800m Watchkeeper programme.

# Bro Emlyn for Peace and Justice

## UAV Military Research

Most UAV research is military and aims to create the next generation of pilotless automated surveillance and attack aircraft. **Most of the research at Parc Aberporth will be military.**

The facts speak for themselves:

- **The proposed fly zone** links Parc Aberporth and the Mynydd Epynt Ministry of Defence training site and airstrip 35 miles away.
- **Parc Aberporth is run by QinetiQ** - formerly the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency. 80 per cent of QinetiQ's global sales are military.
- **The UAV Europe 2009 event will be held in Wales in July 2009.** This was originally to include a flying demonstration at Parc Aberporth.
- **Of the 26 speakers at UAV Europe 2009, 25 are either serving military personnel or represent arms manufacturers** such as Raytheon Missile Systems, Lockheed Martin Missiles, Northrop Grunman Corporation and Thales Defence Systems. A presentation is also being given by a representative from the Israeli Defence Force.



UAVs were used by the Israeli Airforce to attack Palestinian people in Gaza.  
The USA uses UAVs to spy on and attack the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan

## Wasting our money

We believe that the economy of west Wales should not be based on further militarization and that a greater numbers of long term jobs for local people would come from funding high-tech civilian projects .

**The £9 million** already given to QinetiQ by the Welsh Assembly Government only subsidises an already rich arms industry. It would be better spent on finding non-military ways to use UAVs or helping the development of vital technologies such as **sustainable energy generation and manufacturing.**

## The myth of job creation

- **In 2004** the Welsh Development Agency predicted 230 jobs "in the short term" at Parc Aberporth.
- **In 2009** only 18 people work there, 10 of them local.

**Jobs at any price** is bad enough, but **no jobs at the same price** is even worse! We need long term jobs developing **life-giving technologies**, not **life-taking technologies.**

## What you can do

- Obtain a consultation response form and choose the "**None of the above**" option. Also give your reasons. Forms can be downloaded from the WAG website.  
<http://tinyurl.com/nuogsh>
- **Write to your MP or AM.** All local MP's and members of the Welsh Assembly support the military activities of Parc Aberporth and the proposed UAV fly zone. Write to them and say you disagree and ask them to represent your view, not just their own.