



NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVOYS INFO & ACTION LEAFLET

A sub-group from within Northern Friends Peace Board, the Nuclear Abolition Group, has been tasked with finding productive ways to focus our work on nuclear disarmament. We have identified the issues of nuclear weapons convoys as an issue we hope you can help with.

Nukewatch is a network of individuals who campaign against nuclear warhead convoys travelling our roads by raising awareness and tracking and monitoring the movements. Carrying weapons of mass destruction from Burghfield in Berkshire to Coulport on the West coast of Scotland is not only dangerous, as it keeps the British nuclear weapons system going, but also because of the potential consequences resulting from an accident or other incident whilst on the roads.

Should an explosion occur, the warhead is at risk of 'jetting' plutonium. It is estimated a serious accident would affect a circle approximately 600 yards in radius with fragments of the blast contaminating the area. Alpha-emitting plutonium and uranium particles, which if inhaled or ingested can cause cancer, would be dispersed downwind for miles. With these convoys passing close to or even through large towns it would be impossible to evacuate. Ministry of Defence accident guidelines do not explain if traffic would be quarantined, sent on its way or gridlocked in the contaminated zone.

Please take a look at the information overleaf which has been taken from
<http://www.nukewatch.org.uk/>

Ways you can become involved:-

- * inform Friends and contacts in the wider peace movement about the convoys
- * raise public awareness around the areas of the routes and share your creative ideas
- * join a network to monitor, watch, record and report the convoys and encourage others to join
- * contact local elected representatives and local bodies responsible for public safety
- * sign up to the Nukewatch e mail newsletter – www.nukewatch.org.uk

Please be aware of any guidelines concerning monitoring before taking any action by visiting the website

If you spot a convoy ring: **0345 4588 364 in the South**
(put in your phone now!) **0345 4588 365 in the North**
 07796 226488 Mobile

NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVOYS

Convoys of vehicles transporting nuclear weapons travel on our roads

They can be:

- * Carrying Trident nuclear warheads
- * Carrying other Special Nuclear Materials and sensitive components
- * Travelling empty
- * Engaged in a transport simulation exercise
- * En route to or from an accident & emergency exercise on a military base

The Trident warheads

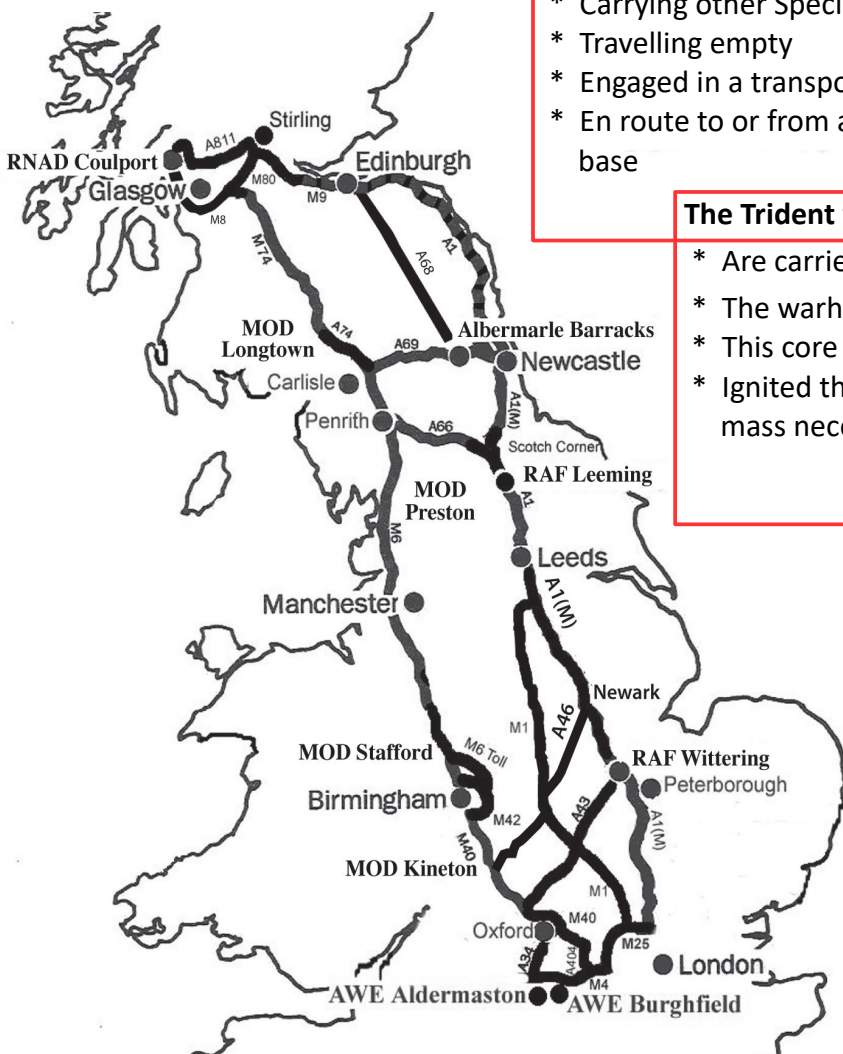
- * Are carried in large crates inside the green trucks
- * The warhead core is a ball of plutonium and uranium
- * This core is surrounded by high explosives
- * Ignited the high explosives would create the critical mass necessary for a nuclear detonation

Spotting a convoy

- * See examples caught on video http://www.nukewatch.org.uk/?page_id=46
- * Enormous, plain dark green trucks (usually between 3 -5)
- * Ministry of Defence Police escort vehicles
- * Military support vehicles
- * Mercedes vans with large blue and yellow checkered stripes
- * A following fire engine
- * Maybe some motorcycle outriders
- * 3 support vehicles
- * All vehicles have lights on (even in daytime)

The Dangers

Described overleaf (in red italics)



ABOVE - NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVOY ROUTES

N.B. Can travel by other routes also



Local Authorities

- * Have been given guidance on how to respond to any emergency arising from the passage of convoys.
- * Local police are informed when a convoy is due to pass through their area. Local Fire Brigades are not.
- * Category 1 Responders (like local councils) have a duty to conduct risk assessments of all identifiable threats and risks to public safety. It is also their duty to inform the public about these threats and risks.