

National Peace and Anti-War Gathering

A gathering of people will be held in Alice Springs in late September to early October this year to oppose the continued operation of US military bases in Australia.

Most Australians know little of Pine Gap's spying and war fighting functions. They do not know that its role with drones breaks international law and undermines Australia's independence and sovereignty.

Many do not even know it exists.

The need for an informed public debate about Pine Gap is more important and more urgent than ever.

What you can do to help

- **support the call to close Pine Gap**
- **send a delegate to the Alice Springs conference and protests**
- **publicise the events taking place around the anniversary** (ipan.org.au)
- **give financial support**

Contact us

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PINE GAP

50th anniversary

Now it's time to close it

In beautiful desert country belonging to the Arrente Aboriginal people, just 20 kms south east of Alice Springs in Australia's heart, you can find a collection of buildings and radomes, like huge white golf balls. This is the US military base called Pine Gap.

Set up 50 years ago, Pine Gap is one of over 40 US military bases on Australian soil which are central parts of the US war fighting machine.



Pine Gap is one of the largest and most important United States war fighting and intelligence (spying) bases in the world.

Killer drones

Pine Gap is involved in the US killer drone program. Pine Gap is one of the major US military communications bases for directing its deadly drones around the world.

US drone strikes have killed thousands of militants and civilians over the last decade in countries including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia and Iraq.

WHAT PINE GAP DOES

The Pine Gap base was set up in 1966 in conditions of great secrecy. Local people were told it was a space research facility.

In fact it is a facility dedicated to spying and war.

Every branch of the United States military as well as the National Reconnaissance Office, National Security Agency and the CIA are stationed at Pine Gap.

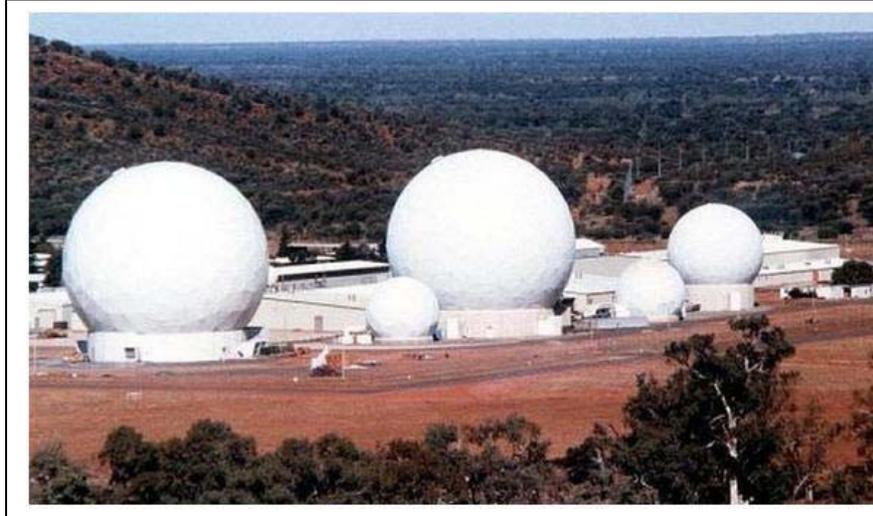
Pine Gap was established in the hysteria of the cold war and is part of the US nuclear war fighting strategy. Australia remains a nuclear target.

With the end of the cold war the US intensified its use of the base, adding more and more functions as the years went on.

Pine Gap's most important role is processing information gathered by satellites and transmitting that information to the United States.

The satellites span a strategically important third of the globe, covering China, southern Russia and the Middle East oil fields.

Data processed by Pine Gap provide targets for US missiles, bombs and drones, intelligence for US



economic and military activities, military command and control functions, information on ballistic missile tests and early warning of missile launches.

United States satellites transmitting through Pine Gap monitor the military, economic, political and domestic telephone, mobile, microwave and VHF radio

communications of target countries – which can be US enemies but also allies.

The base provides photographs of terrain, buildings, troop movements, the results of bombing raids, etc. The satellites map air defences, anti-ballistic missile radars and early-warning radars.

Pine Gap also plays an important role in US plans to put weapons into space.

Recently Pine Gap's surveillance capabilities have been massively expanded. It is now a multi-agency, multi-purpose mega-intelligence centre.

Pine Gap is engaged in 'collect-it-all' surveillance, military as well as civilian, linked directly to military operations, including drone strikes.