

By Fran Quigley

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Jessica Reznicek, 34, an Iowa peace activist, was arraigned yesterday and charged with two felonies for breaking three windows with a sledgehammer at the Northrup Grumman facility outside the Omaha Nebraska Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force base. After her court appearance she was returned to the Sarpy County Jail where she has remained on \$100,000 bond since her action on December 27. Reznicek, who has no plans to post a cash bond, is facing up to twenty years in prison if convicted on both counts. Her trial is set for May 24.

[Writing from her jail cell](#), Reznicek, who has lived and worked at the [Des Moines Catholic Worker](#) for years, said she broke the windows as an act of conscience “in an effort to expose the details of the defense contracts currently held by Northrup Grumman with U.S. Strategic Air Command (STRATCOM) at Offutt Air Force Base. Over the years, billions of taxpayer dollars are pouring into the hands of these money-hungry, bomb-building, and computer geek space war criminals.”

Her [letter continued](#), “Yes, glass did shatter. It shattered like the illusion that Northrop Grumman holds human life in any way in its best interest. It shattered like the illusion Iraq ever possessed weapons of mass destruction. It shattered like the illusion Iraqis were involved in 9/11. It shattered like the lie that perpetual war will ever bring peace. Glass shattered in the name of the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives taken when Northrop Grumman/STRATCOM’s direct bombs from space rained down upon them from space. I destroyed two windows and a door, yes! STRATCOM with its cooperate partner Northrop Grumman destroys life in the tens of thousands.”

“My intention was to be on the property and to do property destruction, that’s what I wanted to do,” Reznicek told a local television reporter via a [jailhouse phone interview](#). “I didn’t want to hurt anybody. I didn’t want to scare anybody.”

Why Northrup Grumman? Northrup Grumman has been manufacturing weapons and weapon systems for profit for the US government for decades. Its primary customer is the US government which accounts for about [85 percent of its total sales every year](#). The massive corporation spends \$10 to \$20 million each year lobbying Congress according to the [Center for Responsive Politics](#). In return it is one of the [very top recipients of federal contracts](#) year after year.

In October 2015 Northrup Grumman received the biggest prize of all, a [\\$55 billion contract](#) from the US to build 21 long range strike bombers. According to the [Secretary of the Air Force](#), these bombers will “allow the Air Force to launch an airstrike from the continental US to anywhere in the world.”

[USA Today](#) included Northrup Grumman in its list of the ten companies profiting the most from war. The corporation recently reported it generated [\\$2.6 billion in income](#) and earned a profit of 12.9%. Its CEO makes more than [\\$21 million a year](#). Board members are paid over [\\$250,000 each per year](#) and include several who passed through the revolving door of government like one high-ranking twenty year Democratic member of Congress, a General who appointed by President Bush to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and an Admiral who was Chief of Naval Operations under President Bush.

Even in jail, [Reznicek remains hopeful](#). “I want to say now that I truly believe that the American people are done with war – done funding, killing and dying in U.S.-led wars and terrorism – and are ready to pave a path to peace.”

“I acted in accordance with my conscience and my spirit and that my property destruction was a useful form of nonviolent direct action. I do not stand in judgment of folks who feel uncomfortable using such methods. Nonetheless, I want to stand beside them, asking them to develop and apply their own means to expose the lies of Northrup Grumman & STRATCOM be it through education, research, writing letters, public discussions, public vigils, rallies and marches and yes, even civil disobedience.

“We all have our part to play. Here in the heartland of America we who seek peace must make efforts to dismantle the U.S. military dominance of space from the top down, by publicly and nonviolently resisting the joint Northrup Grumman and STRATCOM missions.

“This is why I acted. You do not have to act as radically or dramatically as I did, but please make a statement in your own way against government funded companies which focus on war and destruction.

“ [I'll sit in jail for as long as I need to](#) if it gets people talking.”

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