

Arms Trade Affinity Group Actions

This sheet gives examples of some of the affinity group actions that have happened against DSEi and the arms trade in the last 18 months. It is not a full list, but we have put it together to show what has been happening and hopefully to inspire people to take action against the arms trade.

We have included campaigns that are not directly linked to DISARM DSEi as good examples of successful anti-arms trade campaigns. In particular we have included SmashEdo and Caterkiller.

EDO MDM Technology Limited are based in Brighton and make mechanisms for various warplanes including F16s and tornados.

Caterpillar's main factory is in Birmingham. They make bulldozers that are routinely used for the demolition of Palestinian homes. It was a Caterpillar bulldozer that ran over and killed ISM activist Rachel Corrie.

April 2003

Spearhead Exhibitions Limited (DSEi organisers), Surrey.

Red paint splattered inside office through letterbox and on glass outside. Glues locked and posters superglued to front of building.

August 2003

Smiths Aerospace, Wolverhampton.

6 activists climbed on roof whilst others carried out a weapons inspection.

Cambridge Consultants, Cambridge.

Letter handed in to ask company to reconsider their decision to exhibit at DSEi.

Spearhead Exhibitions Limited, Surrey.

Office occupation and die in by Oxford activists and friends.

FluentInc, Sheffield.

Offices blocked and barricaded by people locked on inside. A banner reading "Fluent Deal in Death" dropped from front canopy.

September 2003 (before DSEi)

ExCeL Centre, London.

Opening preparations for DSEi blocked for six hours by forty protesters using tripods and lock ons at both entrances.

ExCeL Centre, London.

Activists in boats try to stop warships from entering ExCeL dock.

BAE Factory, Surrey.

Factory occupied by activists from Anarchist Federation and Class War. A "Destroy the Arms Trade" banner was displayed from the roof.

Caterpillar factory, Birmingham.

Roof top protest and occupation.

BAE Offices, London.

Offices occupied by Rhythms or Resistance who provided samba whilst two people locked on.

September 2003 (During DSEi)

There were many blockades and street protests during DSEi which caused huge amounts of disruption to delegates. These are some of the highlights.

London Catholic Workers poured red paint over the entrance of ExCeL and held banners stating "Government Sponsored Terror" and "Blood on Your Hands".

A group of protesters gained entry to DSEi, climbed onto a tank, displayed a banner and caused disruption.

Several groups of people blocked trains packed full of delegates travelling towards ExCeL by locking on to them and climbing onto the roof. These actions carried on throughout the day causing severe disruption.

A bus full of delegates was disrupted coming from their hotel to DSEi.

The fountains at Trafalgar Square were turned red and hung a banner stating "Arms Dealers in Town – Stop DSEi".

Colebrand Ltd (exhibitor) had their offices decorated with paintballs.

Babcock Defence systems (another exhibitor) had their doors d-locked and stickers and posters were distributed.

March 2004

Spearhead Exhibitions Limited, Surrey.

Red paint poured over front of offices, locks superglued, and posters stuck up.

Caterpillar Plant, Birmingham.

A dozen activists occupied and shut down the plant for the day.

May 2004

Reed Exhibitions (owner and new home to Spearhead), Surrey.

Activists supported by a loud samba presence picketed offices.

EDO MDM Technology Limited, Brighton.

Activists block EDO with a metal cage made out of builders fencing and five people climbed on the roof with an estimated cost of £17000 to the company.

June 2004

Caterpillar offices, Solihull

A mock military checkpoint set up to welcome people to the offices.

July 2004

Farnborough Airshow, Hampshire.

A doubled decker bus full of delegates was stopped by protesters locking on underneath the vehicle causing long tailbacks.

August 2004

EDO MDM Technology Limited, Brighton.

A protest camp was set up which included an overnight roof occupation costing the company £20000 and "peaceful and friendly" visits to two directors homes.

September 2004

Reed Exhibitions, Surrey.

Black paint thrown over the front of the office.

EDO MDM Technology Limited, Brighton.

Large quantities of manure dumped outside to show that EDO are bullshit.