Is the US Military Preparing Us for Starting a “Limited” Nuclear War?
By: John Lewallen <avoidingnuclearwar.com>

The June 11, 2019 public release of Joint Publication 3-72 “US Joint Operations Nuclear Strategy” http://fas.org/irp/doddir/dod/jp3_72.pdf is a terrifying escalation of US nuclear war threat. This plan to integrate “limited” nuclear weapon use with “conventional” US war fighting, with the assertion that nuclear weapons may be used in any conflict involving the US, its allies or partners, makes a nuclear war risking catastrophic attack against the US homeland much more likely.

Coming now, with active military confrontations between the United States and Russia, China, and Iran, and an ongoing war on North Korea involving the US and United Nations, it amounts to a threat to use “limited” nuclear war against these nations. Without strong opposition from the US Congress and an informed public outcry, I’m afraid our military leaders will believe they have enough public support to escalate threat of nuclear war on many fronts.

The following facts and analysis are intended to inform and stimulate people to study this strategic statement which explicitly makes nuclear weapons the foundation of US strategy “to preserve peace and stability by deterring aggression against the US, our allies, and our partners.” The document clearly states that the President has sole command of nuclear strategy and operations, and goes to great lengths to assure that the President will have reliable command and communication means to direct an ongoing nuclear war at all phases. It revives long-debunked theories based on the idea that a phased escalation of nuclear war would cause an enemy to surrender, rather than launching a nuclear counter-strike.

In brief, it is a blueprint risking national suicide and global omnicide (destruction of everything), based on a fantasy world where nuclear weapons are limited and controllable, and human beings follow the rules set by the nuclear attacker.

To me, the craziest thing about this “US Joint Operations Nuclear Strategy” is that it continues to drive the US toward a nuclear field of battle, the only domain of war where the US is at a catastrophic disadvantage, and possibly could see its whole nation and civilization destroyed at the blink of an eye, for no reason at all.

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(From last column) “Limited “Nuclear War? A sane nuclear posture would see US “hawks” and “doves” working together to de-escalate nuclear threat, support treaties limiting nuclear weapons, and move toward a complete ban on nuclear weapons.

Nuclear Bombs are Instruments of All-Destroying Suicide, Not Weapons of War

There are no “limited” nuclear bombs. Modern thermonuclear weapons have unlimited destructive power. Fission weapons such as were used to destroy Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 are now used as triggers to detonate thermonuclear weapons. A single nuclear missile strike could cause tens of millions of casualties, with uncontainable consequences of deadly radioactivity and firestorms threatening “nuclear winter,” years of global darkness caused by stratospheric debris.

President Trump is the first president to face the fact that a single nuclear bomb detonated in space could damage or destroy global computerized civilization with an electromagnetic pulse (EMP). His directive calling on government agencies to protect US electronics from nuclear EMP will take some time to carry out, and may be impossible to achieve. Nations on the US “adversaries” list, notably Russia, China, North Korea, and possibly Iran, are fully prepared to wipe out US electronic civilization with a nuclear EMP strike. This threat is indefensible, and would surely become possible if any of these nations believe US nuclear attack against them is imminent. Here the only sane US option is an end of nuclear confrontation and the beginning of peace talks, such as President Trump started with North Korea.

Nuclear weapons now are “The Great Equalizer.” Now there are nine nuclear-armed nations who can threaten catastrophic damage with a single nuclear weapon. Peace conversion of the nuclear-industrial complex will take awhile to achieve, but really is the only survival option for all of us.

The Omnicidal Illusion of Limited Nuclear War

The key elements of “US Joint Operations Nuclear Strategy” are concepts of how to fight “limited” nuclear war developed over many decades by a small group of strategists. The best book describing these strategies and the men who made them is Fred Kaplan’s The Wizards of Armageddon (Stanford University Press, 1983). All current nuclear strategists would do well to read Kaplan’s exciting, fully documented history of attempts to make a rational weapon of war out of an uncontrollable

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Limited” Nuclear War?
apocalyptic bomb. Most notable are the Berlin Crisis and Cuban Missile Crisis” of the 1960s, when even the key architects of “limited” nuclear war, knowing they had huge superiority over Soviet nuclear forces, drew back from the brink of using nuclear weapons. There will never be a time when one, just one, nuclear weapon might slip by the best defences after surviving the most destructive attack, risking the death of millions or even the destruction of computerized civilization.

As one reads the coolly confident plans for a limited nuclear war, constantly controlled by the President, a winnable war which follows the laws of war and minimizes casualties, it is well to keep in mind the conclusion of Kaplan’s book amid the nuclear strategists of the Reagan administration.

“In the absence of any reality that was congenial to their abstract theorizing,” Kaplan concluded, “the strategists in power treated the theory as if it were reality. For those mired in thinking about it all day, every day, in the corridors of officialdom, nuclear strategy had become the stuff of a living dream world….It was, after all, only rational to try to keep a nuclear war limited if one ever broke out, to devise plans and options ahead of time that might end the war quickly and favourably, to keep the scope of damage not too far out of tune with the importance of the political objectives over which the war was declared to begin with. Yet over the years, despite endless studies, nobody could find any options that seemed practical or made sense.

“In 1946, in the beginning, Bernard Brodie wrote, ‘Everything about the atomic bomb is overshadowed by the twin facts that it exists and that its destructive power is fantastically great.’ The story of nuclear strategy, from that moment on, has been the story of intellectuals—not least of them, for many years anyway, Brodie himself—trying to out manoeuvre the force of those axioms, trying to make the atomic bomb and later the hydrogen bomb manageable, controllable, to make it conform to human proportions….They contrived their options because without them the bomb would appear too starkly as the thing they had tried to prevent it from being but that ultimately it would become if it ever were used—a device of sheer mayhem, a weapon whose cataclysmic powers no one really had the faintest idea how to control. The nuclear strategists had come to impose order—but in the end, chaos still prevailed.”

Key Elements of JP3 72,”Joint Operations Nuclear Strategy”

“National Security Strategy of the United States of America:
This presidential document states that nuclear weapons are the foundation of our strategy to preserve peace and stability by deterring aggression against the US, our allies, and our partners.” (pages I3 and V)

Comment: This suicidal strategy bases national defence on bombs so uncontrollably destructive they can never be used, and extends a “nuclear umbrella” to deter any attack against US “allies and partners” which commits the US to use nuclear weapons in conflicts over which it has no control.

President Trump, who has complete command and control over nuclear strategy according to JP3 72, should immediately announce that the US has no intention of ever being the first to use nuclear weapons in conflict, and does not offer nuclear protection to all allies and partners.

US Congress should assert its constitutional responsibility over war declaration to declare that the US

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Start Listening! Listen to the Teachers
By: Bobbi Hackett (presented at Mothers Day Peace Walk 2019)

Message to the political leaders: SHUT UP! Stop telling the 99% what Americans think. Stop telling the 99% what Americans want. Stop telling the 99% what Americans must do. Stop telling the 899% that capitalism is greed and monopoly. We don’t want “Leadership,” WE ARE THE LEADERS. WE CAN THINK FOR OURSELVES. We want the dignity and respect of Partnership and Service. We must do right by ourselves, our neighbours, and our environment. We must protect and defend equality and justice for ALL.

Listen to the Elders. They will teach you about Courage and Honour and Perseverance.
Listen to the Mothers and Fathers. They will teach you about Family and Community.
Listen to the Children. They are hungry and sick and homeless. For the love of God, is this want we want to conserve?
Listen to the Workers; they will teach you how to create and distribute.
Listen to the Nurses, they will teach you how to heal.
Listen to the Farmers, they will teach you about nourishment and our connection to natural systems.
Listen to the Environmentalists, they will teach you Balance and Harmony and Diversity.
Listen to the Artists, they will teach you how to Communicate. Lies do not communicate. We are sick of communicating degradation, pain and death. Artists will teach you to communicate Truth, Joy, Beauty and Function.
Listen to the Scientists, they can teach you Mechanics and Process.
Listen to the Theologians and the Philosophers, they can teach you morality and ethics.
Listen to the Historians, they will teach you to recognize the mistakes we don’t want to repeat.
Listen to the Whistle-blowers; they will help you define the problem.
Listen to the Conservatives, they will teach you how to conserve the good so we sustain a foundation to build on.
Listen to the Progressives, they will teach you Innovation and Creativity.
Listen to the businessmen who know they only prosper when the community prospers.

The 99% refuse to be silent, if you don’t “get in” we will hire representatives who are listening and do ‘get it’. If you don’t “get it” find a new job. We need farm workers.

Do your job so we have the Liberty to do our job.

Here is a vision of the 99%; here is the agenda of the 99%.

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(From last column) Start Listening! Listen to the Teachers
It is the agenda we have had since the founding of America:

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, so ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America.”

We are done asking for permission. We will not ‘calm down’. We will not wait for self-interested and self-aggrandized ‘leaders’ to ‘get it’. We demand action! We demand Progress! We reject rule of Wall Street. We reject living by Authoritarian Rule.

What does democracy look like? This is what democracy looks like.

[Ed. Note: this was written during the protests by the 99% throughout the USA and Canada]

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Francis of Assisi

Peace is not a relationship of nations. It is a condition of mind brought about by a serenity of soul. Peace is not merely the absence of war. It is also a state of mind. Lasting peace can come only to peaceful people.

Jawaharlal Nehru

Our Mission
The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honour, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org

BPI meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet monthly. To commit call (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email L4peace@telus.net.
**What’s Up?**

**Hiroshima Day:** August 6th in Castlegar—for details call 250-442-8252. (will publish here when info becomes available)

**Nagasaki Day:** August 9th in Grand Forks at Gyro Park, across from Save-On-Foods starting at 1:00 pm.

The BPI hosts **Peace In! Peace Out!** An awareness and fund raising event; out of town and local guests and streamed in provincial and global participants. Come join us for an event on **International Day of Peace in Grand Forks: 24 hours** of live-streamed entertainment, speakers, silent auction, information tables and so much more starting at 4 pm Friday, **September 20th** and going until Saturday, **September 21st**. Admission is by donation. To donate and/or volunteer please contact Laura at 250-444-0524 or by email at: L4peace@telus.net. The venue is still being secured but there will be more information in the next Newsletter.

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**Report to the BCSIpc on Calgary School Presentation**

By: Laura Savinkoff

Before I report on the presentation at Buffalo Rubbing Stone School in Calgary I need to give a bit of background on how this came to be.

My Granddaughter, Tatiana, has attended every Nagasaki Day since she was born; starting at 3 months. Two years ago a few days after the event it became evident that she paid attention for she began to question me on what this was all about and why. Every day for almost a week, while I visited in Calgary, she insisted on probing into what happened with all the grizzly details, she was not satisfied that it was bad she wanted to know why it was bad, why so many people died and how they died, how they lived after the bombings and why was this allowed then and is it happening today. I did my best to satisfy her curiosity trying to explain in the language that a 5 year old can grasp. Well, that followed with her calling all the kids in her neighbourhood, about 12 of them, so Baba could tell them as well. And that was that for a year.

Last year, 2018, she was 6 years old and insisted on coming to Nagasaki Day. This time the event was pretty informal and so I asked her if she wanted to say anything to the people about how she feels about war and peace and Nagasaki Day, just before the event. Surprisingly, she agreed but I was not convinced that she would do so once we were at the event. Well she did! She pleaded with us to ‘stop the killing’ and ‘stop being dead’ and it was time for war to end so we can live and not die. Wow, at 6 she told us, right! Well, the Gazette reporter was a bit late so I asked if Tatiana would repeat what she said and so she took the microphone and said it all again with even more emphasis. When I asked if she would be sharing all that she’d heard with her friends? Her answer was ‘Yes’. I did not think that at 6 years old she would remember all that she had heard or comprehend what she had heard from all the speakers as she sat in a lawn chair glued to every word. Well, she did follow through and in spades.

When all the hype put forward around Remembrance Day arrived and the day itself that was so focussed on glorify the death and the killing of and by soldiers, she became agitated and came home in tears stating that this was wrong; killing was wrong; all the people dying was just wrong!. She called and asked ‘what was the most important thing about ‘our culture’ (meaning Doukhobors)’. This kind of caught me off guard but she said is it not that we don’t kill. My response was yes of course and that is why Doukhobors burnt their guns and swords so long ago and that is why we continue to work to stop war. Tatiana then asked if Baba would come tell all her school about how bad war is and about Nagasaki. I agreed to come but warned her that most likely it won’t to the whole school but she could talk with her teacher and see if it could be arranged for me to speak with her class.

Then a few days later her Mom calls and says you won’t believe what Tatiana has done; it was totally her idea. She asked for a piece of cardboard, which is not unusual, and it happened to be a round piece they had in the house. She took it to school and asked her teacher to help her draw a Peace Sign—so this round piece of cardboard became a peace sign, taped it onto a stick and began carrying it around her school. And then another idea struck her—she must ask her friends and fellow students if they wanted war or peace. So another piece of cardboard became a survey—on one side Yes to War and the other No to War—and she got students to mark yes or no with a name added, if they wanted. I was totally blown away! She is only 6 years old and she has this amount of courage and commitment and creativity to do this. Then Tatiana once again asked me to come and speak to her class. I promised we would work something out and we did. (More next issue)