

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action
16159 Clear Creek Road NW
Poulsbo, WA 98370
August 10, 2015

Captain Thomas Zwolfer, Commanding Officer
Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor
120 South Dewey Street
Bremerton, WA 98314

Dear Captain Zwolfer:

We, the undersigned, gathered with the group at the Ground Zero Center to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, write this letter to you respectfully urging that you use every power available to you in your command of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor to call for an immediate halt to the proposed updating and expansion of the Kitsap Bangor Trident fleet under your command.

We are a group of conscience and/or faith-driven individuals who want the very best for our country's future. As nonviolent resisters, our goal is not at all to subvert our nation's defense but to follow the mandate given us in the Nuremberg Principles to do all in our power to assure that our country stops violating international and humanitarian law and strictly adheres to any and all treaties and conventions to which we are signatories, as requested by our Constitution. As resisters, we are not simply protesting current and proposed policies, but sincerely and nonviolently seeking the alternative—an America that leads the world to “Affirm Life and Abolish Nuclear Weapons”—in keeping with our theme for this weekend's event. As resisters, we seek to educate others on the need to abolish nuclear weapons through information and our action.

Prior to the initial testing of the atom bomb in 1945, many of its creators called for prudence and consideration of its moral implications—a call that went unheard then, with horrific results at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

With the implementation of each and every step toward the refurbishing and upgrading of our nuclear arsenal, we continue to disregard prudence and morality; and with every deployment of a Trident submarine in international waters, we continue to violate international and humanitarian law that specifically prohibits the use and threat of use of any nuclear weapon (International Court of Justice decision, 1996).

If we want to regain international respect we need to conform to what we expect of other nations: stop building and deploying these illegal and immoral weapons.

Once again, this year we have conducted an overnight vigil at the Main Gate to make clear our firm commitment toward ending the building and deploying of all nuclear weapons in general and the Trident Weapons System in particular.

We welcome you, Captain Zwolfer, as the highest authority accessible to us, who can speak to the Navy, the Pentagon, and the President, to rise to the challenge of making an exigent call to those up the chain of command to cease and desist from further development, production and deployment of the Trident Nuclear Weapons System and all nuclear weapons.

We would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you to discuss this request further. Please contact us through Ground Zero Center for more information and local contacts.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

