

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
BRUNSWICK DIVISION

USA

V

NO. 2:18-CR- 22

ELIZABETH MCALISTER

DECLARATION OF THOMAS ROGERS

Pursuant to 28 USC 1746, Thomas Rogers, declares under penalty of perjury:

1. My name is Thomas Rogers. I served in the U.S. Navy for over 31 years. I retired in 1998 at the rank of Captain. I now live in the state of Washington.
2. From the 1970's to the 1990's, I served as an officer in submarines homeported in Groton, Connecticut and San Diego, California. I was assigned to four different nuclear submarines, all of which were armed with nuclear weapons. I served as Commanding Officer of a nuclear attack submarine for three years during the latter part of the Cold War. As Commanding Officer, I was ultimately responsible for the nuclear weapons aboard my ship. Following command I served as Force Intelligence Officer on the Staff of Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. I planned and supervised sensitive submarine operations in the Pacific in the years following the collapse of the Soviet Union. It was during this assignment that I began to question our nation's continued reliance on a national security policy based on nuclear weapons.
3. In the last 4 years of my career, I served as an Instructor with the Navy Tactical Training Group Pacific in San Diego. The staff was led by a very small cadre of senior officers

with decades of warfare specialty experience. The Tactical Training Group could be compared to a small college where the senior officers enjoyed the status of professors with nearly complete freedom to express their views within their own areas of expertise. In addition to my duties as Undersea Warfare Chairman I taught Operational Law and Rules of Engagement to Admirals and their staffs as they prepared for deployment to the Western Pacific and Persian Gulf. In that teaching we used the ANNOTATED SUPPLEMENT TO THE COMMANDER'S HANDBOOK ON THE LAW OF NAVAL OPERATIONS as our text.

4. As a Navy Captain assigned to the Tactical Training Group, I attended the Naval Justice School at Newport, Rhode Island and graduated from the Operational Law course there. We used the ANNOTATED SUPPLEMENT TO THE COMMANDER'S HANDBOOK ON THE LAW OF NAVAL OPERATIONS as our text.
5. Based on my experience and study, I believe that nuclear weapons are illegal and immoral. The Law of Armed Conflict requires a Commander to comply with the principles of Distinction, Proportionality, and Military Necessity. The fact that nuclear weapons are not controllable in time or space and that they possess horrible destructive power precludes them from fulfilling those requirements. Furthermore, Commanders are subject to the Rules and Principles of Humanitarian Law, which prohibit use of weapons that cause undue human suffering, genocide, and destruction of the environment.
6. The 1996 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice stated that use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is generally contrary to the rules and principles of international humanitarian law. The deployment of nuclear weapons on board Trident submarines

which are on alert patrol and can shoot those weapons within 30 minutes at anybody in the world clearly constitutes a continuing threat of use of nuclear weapons.

7. Strategic nuclear weapons on submarines are kept on alert and ready for deployment.

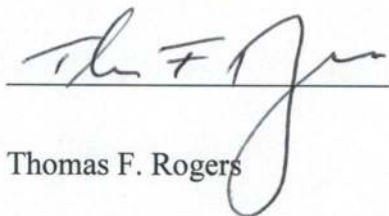
There is no way those weapons can be used in a way that avoids indiscriminately killing and injuring civilians and doing tremendous environmental damage. It is impossible to detonate multiple 100 and 475 kiloton warheads from Trident missiles and not harm noncombatants.

8. The Trident Weapons System has been in the process of being enhanced for years. The warheads have better accuracy and more destructive power now than ever before. Our country has more deadly missiles on Trident submarines than we ever did during the Cold War.

9. The time for our country to move away from a national security policy based on nuclear weapons is long overdue. Nuclear deterrence became obsolete when the Cold War ended over 26 years ago, yet our government continues to rely on this dangerous, expensive, barbaric strategy.

10. I applaud the courage and commitment of the Plowshares Activists in bringing national attention to this most important issue. Their example of nonviolent individual responsibility is the essence of good citizenship. Our world needs more people to act when our government is engaging in illegal and immoral policies. Nuclear weapons are evil and should be abolished worldwide under strict and effective international control.

Signed June 20, 2018



Thomas F. Rogers