



**Editor's note:** Academy Fellow Jim Channon offers us three paradigm shifts to add to our awareness of "the Whole." Jim believes that if we help get these paradigms into the consciousness of the world, they will constitute a new set of options that we as citizens of the planet never had before. He notes that the "sovereignty of the planetary commons is beyond the purview of nations. It belongs to the world and all the sentient beings who live here. There are no national priorities that should stand above this sovereignty."

### **Three Paradigm Shifts**

by Academy Fellow Jim Channon

I was recently invited to participate in the design of a future military force with some respected military leaders at Oak Ridge National Laboratories in Tennessee. I was struck again by the integrity of these very highly purposed people. I conclude from this experience that there are three paradigm shifts I need to offer the Members and Fellows of the Academy to add to our awareness of "the Whole."

First, the planet is only governed by nations if we assign nations that authority. There is a far more egalitarian mix of organizations of all kinds that really represents the civilization we have together. Nations simply cannot speak and act for the whole of humanity and the other living beings resident on this sphere.

Two, national interests exclude most of the oceans, the soil deeper than a foot or so, and the air which rises seven miles above the surface of the globe. These areas are the "planetary commons," and nations have no right to govern that which they have taken no responsibility for. The commons are our collective responsibility.

Three, the military forces of the planet are, for the most part, friends with each other. Should there be some terrible mix of catastrophes like the recent 9-11 incident, we don't need to let national egos get to the point of allowing something ignorant to happen to our planetary commons--something like launching nuclear missiles or biological agents to achieve purely national objectives. Nations simply don't deserve the right to unilateral behavior of this consequence.

May I also offer that the militaries of this planet are steeped in service. They know each other from the common schooling and disaster rescue work they do together and are motivated by a higher purpose. If we chose to ask them to restore the planetary commons together, I firmly believe they would do it and do it well. They have the educated leadership, the organizational tools, the communications, the planning and, most of all, the integrity to do this.

We have never taken a public position as an Academy that I know of other than Willis Harman's creed that helped call in all Members of this Academy and a most esteemed set of Fellows. If we really believe in taking responsibility for THE WHOLE, then I offer this as part of the effort. The sovereignty of the planetary commons is beyond the purview of nations. It belongs to the world and

all the sentient beings who live here. There are no national priorities that should stand above this sovereignty. Nations must simply take their place in the governance of that which is theirs.

They should settle their disputes like all the rest of us, using communications, not weapons. And when we are ready to put our planetary habitat back in balance, I commend the military and the other service organizations of the world to you. Know that this is a real and sober option. Our Academy president cited two generals in his powerful piece about global reconstruction. Those kinds of men and women are still out there, in place, waiting for a higher calling to serve the planetary commons. I just don't believe that the politics of nations should be allowed to unilaterally control our future as a planet. The hundreds of millions of people who died in this last century as a result of national objectives is testimony to a poor track record, and we must not vote them such confidence merely because they capture the news.

Members and Fellows of the Academy: Consider this a piece of our Global reconstruction work together. If we help get these paradigms into the consciousness of the world, then they will constitute a new set of options that we as citizens of the planet never had before. I am afraid our global infrastructure is too fragile to sit back and hope our national leaders will do the right thing. They just don't have a big enough picture.

Respectfully,

Jim Channon  
Academy Fellow and  
Commander of the First Earth Battalion  
[arcturusjim@hotmail.com](mailto:arcturusjim@hotmail.com)