FINAL HOUR to Doomsday Iran War? US DEPLOYS to Israel | Larry Johnson & Col. Lawrence Wilkerson

CIA Analyst Larry Johnson and Col. Lawrence Wilkerson discuss the massive preparations leaking out of the US military establishment for a 'doomsday' war with Iran following Israel's elections and the geopolitical implications of the escalations underway. Follow Larry Johnson: https://sonar21.com/ https://www.youtube.com/@UCewRbK22LRnNi6N3EcGjbow PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhai... Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: $Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: https://paypal.me/spiritofho Follow me on Telegram: https://t.me/dannyhaiphong #iran #iranwar #israel

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. Danny Haiphong here. As you can see, I am joined by Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, and Larry Johnson will join us in just a moment to go over the latest developments. But Colonel Wilkerson, I wanted to begin with all of the reports. After the Israeli elections, we see that the Pentagon is now transferring troops and a Patriot missile battery from Texas to Israel ahead of what is assumed to be a large-scale U.S.-Israeli strike on Iran after the U.S. midterm elections. Not only this, but the U.S. is also deploying more warships to the region.

The Israeli media outlet Maariv said there's a report from the Institute for National Security Studies, a Tel Aviv think tank, that says the U.S. Army is reinforcing its redeployment with destroyers deployed in the Mediterranean, and their networks are being rebuilt. Now, the U.S. is telling Gulf states to brace for a renewed assault on Iran after the midterm elections. And a source in the UAE told Israel's Channel 14 News that everyone is looking toward November 4th, the day after the midterm elections, as the time when strikes will occur. Now, I also wanted your thoughts on this, maybe a little later in the program.

Countries around the world—France, the United States, and several other Western countries—have all issued emergency food-stockpiling alerts for what they say is a possible doomsday war in the near future. The UK has sent out several alerts. The U.S. is now hyping Fortress America. Larry, good to see you. Yeah, sorry I was late. No worries, no worries. I don't know if your mic— He called you a laggard. I am. Larry, you might want to change your mic. It may not be your external mic. It is. Okay, let's see here. Okay, well, Colonel Wilkerson, do you want to begin the program with your reactions to these developments?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, you've given a potpourri of developments. Having had a little bit of a history with the Trump administration here for the past few months, my first inclination would be that this is all a dodge—that the 4th or the 3rd itself or the 5th or whatever is all a dodge, and they're going to hit them tomorrow morning. I mean, that would be my expectation if everything were in place and ready to go, and the NEOs—noncombatant evacuation operations—had been performed and people were out of harm's way, as it were. I'd say they'd hit them tomorrow morning or tomorrow night, because that's the way they operate. But if they are going to stick to their timetable, as you just predicted it, I suspect we're going to get the same thing, only a worse result than before.

I don't think we're going to get anything positive at all out of it, no matter what we try to do militarily. The only solution to the conflict with Iran is diplomatic or political—if you want to call simply calling it quits and going home diplomatic. Not for a moment do I think Donald Trump will do that. And my calculations on what Donald Trump might do have been somewhat influenced of late by what I learned about—and maybe you two know about this too—the conversations in seriatim, if you will, between Tucker Carlson and Donald Trump and Doug McGregor and Donald Trump, and what that really says about Trump's intentions here, which are nothing strategic, nothing calculable, nothing other than his vanity, nothing other than the chairman of the Joint Chiefs' lack of knowledge of warfare. And I mean that sincerely.

And nothing more than simple complicity in all of this. And so what we really have going on right now is Donald Trump doing something that he was advised periodically, soundly, and wisely not to do, and he's doing it anyway. And the conclusion you have to come to—well, you can come to the conclusion that he's insane. I would buy that. But you also have to consider at least the conclusion that it's all Netanyahu. It's all Israel, and nothing's going to stop that. And then we need to talk about the election and where Netanyahu is right now, and what that might mean for Trump and another attack on Iran. And I think that changes things a little bit at least, if not a lot. Not that there won't be an attack. There will be. Or you have to conclude that Donald Trump is absolutely insane. I don't know any other way to look at it.

#Danny

Yeah, Larry, do you?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, look, I guess we're waiting for next Tuesday. Now, we've had a lot of predictions about elections in Brazil that didn't turn out as many expected. The same with respect to Israel. Actually, the predictions about Israel were not that far off from the standpoint of predicting a loss for Netanyahu. It was a loss. You know, Likud lost more seats compared to what he achieved back in 2022. But it was not a decisive outcome. So right now, we're looking at what's going to happen next

Tuesday, with sort of the conventional wisdom being that this is going to be not only a decisive but a potentially catastrophic outcome for the Republicans.

And I personally hope that pans out, because I think that may be our only way out of this mess. A report just came out that, you know, Chris Murphy, the senator, said he's been briefed that the Pentagon, the Department of War, has a plan to go in and seize Kharg Island and Qeshm Island—to try to mount a military operation to seize those islands in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz. Absolute madness. I mean, just the effort to put troops on those islands would be so high-risk. And once they're there, our ability to protect them will go out the window.

So, why do I say the election could be a saving grace? Everybody who wants to be a general or admiral has got to be approved by the Senate. If the Senate now flips to 55–45 Democratic, I know there are a lot of people still at the Pentagon at the O-6 level—the colonel level, or the captain level in the Navy—who sure would like to pin on that star. And if they are asked to carry out an order that they can genuinely see will lead to a military disaster, I can see the possibility of some of those officers standing up and saying, "No, we're not doing this. This is an illegal order. You want to do this? You go to Congress. You get authorization." I don't think that's unrealistic. It would be unusual.

As long as we know that Congress is behind it and they've voted according to the Constitution, great, we'll go to war. But without that, we're not doing this. And at that point, they might actually be saving their careers. Because I guarantee you, if anybody participates in that and it goes south, as we anticipate it will, the moment their name comes before the Senate for promotion, that promotion will not see the light of day. They'll be done. And, you know, I never discount the power of personal ambition and the desire to advance in rank as motivating factors in what people do. So, you know, I think that fact alone is something that could deter Trump from going forward with this crazy plan, this madness.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

The other thing I'd point out, Danny, is that I think one of the newest ingredients in this recent election—besides the fact that they hadn't had this kind of turnout since '77 or '81 or somewhere in there—was how many seats the Arabs won. I thought this was going to happen, but not to the extent that it did. I'm no expert on Israeli elections, but I know this, at least. The turnout was incredible. And as I understand it, they're still counting over 400,000, maybe 500,000 IDF absentee ballots, as it were, and other things.

And if Gadi Eisenkot, the author of the obliteration doctrine, bless his heart, were to be smart politically and want to put one over on Netanyahu big time, he would ally himself with the Arabs, at least in numbers. They could come to some agreement. Let's put it that way. Then he'd go from 48 seats to 67 seats or something like that and have a clear majority. I don't think that's going to

happen because I don't think he's willing to do that. But it would be an astute political move, a move that Netanyahu wouldn't hesitate to make for a moment, because he'd just reverse it and disempower them as soon as he got the coalition he wanted and the power he wanted.

But there's a prospect for change that I think they ought to consider. I don't know this guy. I know he's a military guy more than anything else. I know he is the author of the Obliteration Doctrine, which essentially is what my student at George Washington University, who I've probably talked to you about before, said was, "Kill everything that moves. Don't leave a thing alive." That's his way of running the IDF when he was, I guess, chief of staff, and also in lower positions, when that doctrine really went into play. But still, I come back to that. What better way to put Netanyahu down, or at least deal him a real blow? Because then you would have a majority, and you could form a government all by yourself.

#Danny

Well, you know, these are interesting points about the Israeli election because, Larry, I've heard from some who have said that what happened in the Israeli election actually motivates Israel to get back into the war on Iran. And a lot of these deployments of the Patriot battery and the destroyers all seem to surround Israel. Your thoughts on why Israel now is perhaps more enthusiastic about getting directly back into this madness of a war?

#Larry Johnson

Well, deploying more Patriot batteries to Israel, while I think it is a sign that Trump is dead-ass serious about restarting this war, is really sort of a meaningless gesture because, A, those units are completely ineffective against Iran's ballistic missiles. B, the United States probably has fewer than 700 PAC-3 missiles left in its entire inventory worldwide. So if Iran fires 1,000 ballistic missiles, which they're quite capable of firing, they could wipe out the entire remainder of U.S. PAC-3 missiles. And we won't see any for years because the Chinese control the rare earth minerals and the magnets that go into the guidance systems that make the PAC-3 work, in theory.

But, you know, you've seen a huge movement of C-17s. So, you know, surely the Trump administration isn't planning on losing this election. I think that will be shock number one. But regardless of whether they win or lose, I think they're going to go forward with this attack on Iran. And Iran, you know, they've been playing it pretty cool. They've been getting ready. There's been significant movement of military equipment from Russia to Iran and further support from the Chinese. And on top of all that, you've had the movement now with the Mecca Accord members—Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey—coming to Iran and basically inviting Iran to be part of that agreement. This is a sign that, if it goes forward, the U.S. presence in the Middle East will be at an end, or largely at an end.

#Danny

Yeah. Colonel, your reaction?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Oh, I agree with that 100%. I think we're done. We're done in Southwest Asia, and all that remains is to put a stake in our grave. And it seems, as Larry intimated, that Trump and Bibi Netanyahu and Israel are intent on expediting that stake's entry into our heart.

#Danny

Yeah, well, you know, I wanted to ask, Larry: you brought up that the Patriot system isn't really going to do anything. And the final results are in for the Israeli election. There is no majority. How would a renewed escalation against Iran help Israel in this sense, now that it's quite clear that another election could be needed to choose the prime minister—or not? You know, I don't know. Israeli politics seem very chaotic. Your thoughts on how a renewed escalation would help Israel, especially since Trump is making all these gestures toward that end?

#Larry Johnson

I think Israel has made a dangerous assumption, since there really haven't been any missile strikes from Iran on Israel since the middle of April. So, you know, what is that, six months? May, June, July, August, September, October. Yeah, for more than six months. So they may have convinced themselves that they're immune to any future attack. The problem they face is they're so small, and they are dependent upon a number of very—I'll call them fragile—systems. They've got two refineries. Those refineries have already been damaged, but they're still operating. If Iran takes them out, there goes the oil, diesel, gasoline, and other critical petrochemicals needed for what remains of Israel's industry. The ports could be taken out, as could power stations and desalination plants.

So Israel could be faced with an actual survival crisis that military attacks against Iran alone will not solve. So, you know, if they touch this off, I think they could be subjected to a level of destruction that they haven't experienced. Now, there are always the threats. People have said that Israel could use a nuke. They might. But I've been told by somebody who I think is in a position to know—he says he knows—that Iran has developed a nuke and has one, but it's a "break the glass in case of fire" kind of thing. They don't get it out. They don't use it to try to change the political situation. It's there as the ultimate insurance policy. Now, if that's true, then Israel could be setting itself on fire in a way that it never thought possible.

#Danny

Yeah, well, before we get into the hysteria and the emergency preparations being called for all across the West, including the U.S., I wanted to ask one more question about this impending war.

You know, the thing that really is interesting to me is that we have all of this hysteria about Iran's nuclear capabilities. And Larry, you just discussed it a bit there. Colonel Wilkerson, I want to ask you about these efforts. J.D. Vance supposedly wrote a letter to Mohsen Rezaei to open up talks again. Qatar is mediating. Pakistan is mediating. To both of you, but first to Colonel Wilkerson: is any of this serious, or are we just on this loop of the United States pretending to talk to Iran while preparing for another strike?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

You're asking me to comment on whether or not J.D. Vance has a brain and maybe is operating independently, because I don't think there's any way, shape, or form that Donald Trump is going to do that. And I'd have to assume that J.D. Vance was operating on his own and maybe thinking about his own future. But let me come back to something that Larry said. And let me make a categorical statement on your podcast, Danny. I have been taken to task by individuals from all manner of organizations, of which, in many cases, I'm a member—some reluctantly—for saying that Iran might have a nuclear weapon, or even definitively saying that Iran might have a nuclear weapon.

Based on Ted Postol's conversations with me and on other factors, I've been told that I don't have any intelligence sources to prove it. Dudes, I want to say to these people, I have a brain, and I can see the world, and I can see the history of nuclear weapons acquisition. And I'm going on the proposition that, I believe, when Israel's guidance was followed to the letter and we killed the then Ayatollah with members of his family in his home, there was some real talk that went on about whether or not it was still anathema to Islam to have a nuclear weapon. And that talk—you might think, too, that the fact that the IRGC sort of took over everything in terms of leadership influenced it—led to what Larry just said.

I think they have a proximate bomb, if you will. I think they are holding it in abeyance, and they're going to use it if they have to, but only because they're threatened with the same thing from the other side. So let me make that statement categorically to all those people. It doesn't take the CIA to tell me that this has happened. It's an opinion, let's put it that way, that you develop based on your experience and other people's expertise and, you know, the fact that Gaddafi went down and Kim Jong-un is still with us. That sort of calculation. So take that, all you critics out there. Now, your question—what was your question?

#Danny

Sorry. No, no, no. My question was whether J.D. Vance, the Trump administration, and the Qatari mediators are just going through the motions or are serious about trying to prevent this.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

My guess would be he's going through the motions, but nonetheless, with his more astute political antenna—I think I attribute that to him—he's trying to, you know, keep himself viable. He can always say down the road, when this turns into a total catastrophe, if we go ahead with these military operations, he can always say, "Well, I objected. And you can see where I objected. I was talking about diplomacy. I was talking about reopening that diplomacy. I was talking about doing whatever we could to extract ourselves from the situation without having to use more military force." I'd be doing that if I were he. I'd be doing everything I possibly could if I had any aspirations for political success in the future, and I think he does—profound ones. I'd be distancing myself, however indirectly I did it, from this administration because they are going to go down in flames on November the 3rd.

#Danny

Sorry, you're muted. Oh, sorry, I was muted. Same question to you, Larry.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, whenever we get to hear certain phrases like "J.D. Vance wrote a letter," my mind starts thinking, you know, we should put together a musical, right, that would be based around this. So this would resurrect a song from the Box Tops, circa 1967. It's called "The Letter." You know, it started off, "Give me a ticket for an airplane. Ain't got time to take a fast train. Lonely days are gone. I'm going home. J.D. just wrote me a letter." See? Singing and dancing, you know. It's funny. I apologize. Look, the fact that J.D. wrote this letter that had Trump's approval is a sign.

Again, despite all of Trump's bravado—"We destroyed their military, we destroyed their Air Force, we destroyed their Navy, we destroyed their currency, their economy's collapsed," yada, yada, yada, yada—the U.S. is still saying, "Let's see if we can get a deal." Okay? Because he knows that everything they're saying is a lie. Iran is not done. Its military is not on its heels. They continue to create the worst global economic and environmental disaster ever, which is unfolding right now in the Persian Gulf. The oil tankers that have been sunk, the oil tankers that have been hit and are leaking oil—this is probably eight times worse than the Exxon Valdez when it came apart off Alaska.

So you're looking at this kind of damage to the water systems, the desalination systems. They need so-called fresh seawater. If seawater is laced with oil, you can't drink that. And as that oil spreads, that oil slick is going to spread throughout the Persian Gulf. It's not just going to stay confined to one area. So you've got that going on. And then, if Trump doubles down—and he's talking about putting troops on land, on those islands—good Lord. This could make, you know, Churchill's Gallipoli misadventure appear to have been a genius move. And, you know, Trump, in this moment of desperation, has been lying, repeatedly lying to the American people about what's going on. In fact, the world economy has suffered tremendous damage. I wrote about it last night.

There is this cruise ship called the VFV. It's an American project by a couple out of Fort Lauderdale, and basically they were selling staterooms on this ship to retirees. “Hey, how would you like to just get rid of your condo and your home, buy a stateroom for $180,000, and then pay $3,000 a month, and everything's covered? You don't have to go to the grocery store. We do that for you. You get two beers and two wines with every meal, including breakfast,” which means if you're doing that for breakfast, you've got a drinking problem. But, you know, it was this great thing. It went bankrupt on Tuesday in Cambodia. Why? Because they had budgeted the price of diesel at like $1,800 per cabin. Well, it's up to over $8,000 per cabin.

#Larry Johnson

And that's a direct consequence of this war. And that higher diesel price is affecting other cruise lines as well. Some of them were smart. Some of them went out and basically hedged their bets on fuel so that they could lock in at certain prices. Others did not, and they are going to be in grave economic trouble. That's just one sector. And it spreads out across the world. And we're seeing it in bare shelves in grocery stores in Italy, and the riots in France, in Albania, and in Spain, and other protests in Italy. This isn't going to get better. This is going to get worse. And there is no immediate fix for it. And if Trump goes in militarily, it's like you've got a house that's on fire. You think you might be able to put the fire out, and then somebody runs up with two cans of gasoline and tosses them into the fire. It only makes it worse. That, apparently, is what Trump and Bibi are getting ready to do.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Along those lines, Danny, this morning, the economic report, such as it is for the United States, showed incredible growth. I mean, not off the charts, but incredible growth given the circumstances. 3.4%. And if you look into it closely, you see that most of that's AI. Almost totally AI. So, okay, you've got 3.1% growth, and jobs are looking good, and so forth and so on. But what is it based on? It's based on a shimmer, as far as I'm concerned.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Ever since Nixon, the government has used those kinds of stats to lie through their teeth.

#Danny

Yeah.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

But I think this is a false appraisal of the situation. And it's based on, essentially, this incredible bubble that's building up around AI.

#Danny

Yeah, and I think in that New York Times report I was reading earlier this morning, it specifically says that—at least, this is the New York Times' commentary—all of the consumption being fueled by that is mainly among the wealthy. And so there's almost this mystery: why are so many ordinary people in the United States saying the economy is bad when all this growth is happening? And it just so happens that that AI bubble is just fueling increased consumption among the rich. But everyone else?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Check those people out in Oklahoma who have power bills of $1,000 a month and only make $800 a month.

#Larry Johnson

You saw it today. I briefly watched an interview on Bloomberg with this White House economic adviser, Kevin Hassett. God, what a moron this kid is. I'm not going to insult his physical appearance. I'll stay away from that. Sorry for the ad hominem. But he was saying that these Americans who are complaining about rising prices—that's just false. Everything's fine. It's like, Jesus, you know, you live an insulated life, because Americans are facing higher costs across the board, but particularly food and fuel, which conveniently are left out of the inflation index. You know, someone long ago said, "Yeah, let's just pretend that that doesn't exist. That'll fool them." Yeah.

#Danny

While we wait—oh, yeah. Well, Colonel Wilkinson will return in a second. There are cell phones around me now because of what I was talking about.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I have to verify everything. This is just crazy. AOL has gone insane. Absolutely insane.

#Danny

No worries at all. Well, I wanted to get your reactions to this, too. There's been a curious development I'm sure both of you have noticed. Countries all over the world, mainly Western countries but also some in Latin America, have been issuing emergency preparedness warnings, urging citizens to ensure that they have several days of emergency supplies. The U.S. and U.K. have been notable, with the U.K. doing this on two different occasions, and now France is issuing warnings too. They're telling people to be ready for, at least according to what Hegseth is saying, a doomsday war. The other Western countries are being a little more vague, except for the U.K., which is literally saying, "Prepare for a war," and is very specific, actually, about Russia. But gentlemen, maybe I'll begin with you, Colonel Wilkerson. What is going on? Why are these emergency preparations now being urged, to varying degrees, all at the same time?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Part of it is probably the recognition of the fact that what Larry just said is true: that we are probably headed into a global depression, particularly if Trump pursues this war beyond the present moment. But let me back up and say something else, too. With the exception of one or two leaders in Europe, from Finland to France—with the latter being a great example of this—what's happened is that these political leaders have built their political base, and thus their political future, if there is any for them, on Russophobia, on Zelensky, on Ukraine, on all that that represents. Merz is at the peak of this. They've built their political future and present on this matter. They cannot back up now and say, "I was wrong. It's not really good to be antagonistic towards Moscow. It's killed my economy, for example, in Germany."

In France, what Macron has done is a disaster, partly because of his attitude about Ukraine. Multiply that across the entire tapestry of Western Europe, with the exception of Spain. Bless Spain, they just had a terrible train accident. But their futures and their present are based on that Russophobia, and they can't possibly back out. So when they see it falling apart—and Alice is doing that to Merz in Germany, big time—they just double down on it. And they try to create more panic. England is a perfect example. More panic. Finding a spy or an Iranian traitor or whatever behind every colonnade in London. They have to do that because their political present and future depend on that. I'm sorry. They're all going to be thrown out of office within the next six to twelve months.

#Danny

Yeah. Larry, what's your reaction to all of this?

#Larry Johnson

The other day, when they announced that all the U.S. military bases in the United States need to have a 90-day supply of food, fuel, and energy, I'm thinking, "Oh, that's interesting. Where's the budget allocation for that?"

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Hmm.

#Larry Johnson

You know, they're calling for that. So, you know, you're looking at probably at least 100 bases in the United States that could fall under that. And if each of those bases needs to buy generators to power everything on those bases, that's a lot of generators, number one. Number two, they need to stockpile diesel fuel, particularly when diesel fuel is now at $6.50 a gallon here in the States. So that's a substantial expense. And then, you know, stockpiling MREs—that's not a big deal, but that's still a big storage expense.

But again, these are, quote, plans put in place without the funding to make it happen. And it's the same thing with warning people, you know, stock up on water, stock up on food, because, you know, they're thinking this is like a hurricane coming in or some sort of tornado, some natural disaster that's just going to briefly disrupt your lives. Oh, you're going to be without internet for two days. No, if this thing goes nuclear—because that is the underlying message here: this is going nuclear—that ain't going to be a two-day cleanup process.

#Danny

Yeah, I would say.

#Larry Johnson

That's not like after a hurricane, when you go out and pick up the tree limbs and the leaves, or haul out all the flooded furniture. No, this will break down the global supply system. And when the global supply chain is destroyed or disrupted to such an extent, you're going to witness mass starvation. People who are not eager to starve are going to go out and find food and find those who have food. And if those who have food are not protected with firearms, they're going to take it away. So, I mean, this is like a prescription for Mad Max, those early movies with Mel Gibson. And these politicians, they're out of their minds. I avoided using expletives.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Let me give you a specific example to reinforce that a little bit. My old Jeep driver in Korea called me the other day. I won't mention any names, but he said, "Colonel, guess what? We got a problem out here in Indiana." Well, it turned out that problem was a place right next door to where he lives. He's on the town council of a town in southern Indiana that has about 800 people in it. Right next door, literally, to where he lives is the road that leads into the warehouse distribution center where, he told me—and I confirmed it with Congress—all the meals ready to eat for the United States military

are stored. Interestingly, I found out who the responsible congressman was because I was trying to help this young man.

And I found out where he had just been within the last 48 hours, and where some people from DOD had been too. It was this food distribution center. That's what it's called, Warehouse Distribution Center in Marengo, Indiana. And I thought to myself, well, I wonder why this congressman, who is the representative for the district in which the warehouse exists, was having this big meeting in the warehouse with all these people from DOD and Congress and stuff. Well, I'll bet you what they're doing is looking at what the possibilities are here, you know? Because this is, I'm told—and I asked DOD, and they pretty much told me—the single depository for meals ready to eat. And that's for all the services, in this one location. Interesting coincidence. Wow.

#Danny

Yeah, that's a great example. Larry, you know, you said the implications are nuclear. Yeah, I wanted an explanation of that.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Was that with a little N or a big N?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, I think big N. I think the likelihood of the use of nuclear weapons is going to go up. And again, Colonel Wilkerson knows this: this is how bureaucracies work. You know, some of these folks in the deep state, their job is to plan for certain things. And so they get, if you will, a warning order or an alert order to start planning for this possible contingency. Well, they don't step back and say, "Oh, is this likely?" What they do is they start doing the planning. Now, that's one of the things that I learned in my years of consulting with the Department of Defense, Department of War, through JSOC and SOCOM: when the military sets its mind to actually planning something, they're pretty damn good. You've got some exceptional planning capabilities, but they don't always think through what the policy implications are if we move forward with this action.

#Danny

Yeah. Yeah, well, Colonel Wilkerson.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Larry, planners aren't noted for their ability to look beyond the plan.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, no, exactly right.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

It's a sorry situation, but it's that way. The best planners in the world—you come to them and ask them a question: “What about that?” “Oh, I didn't get that far. That's not my purview.” Yeah.

#Danny

Well, Colonel Wilkerson, I wanted to ask you about planners. There was a planner, or at least someone we can call a planner, in the Pentagon who was just fired, I believe, from the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Lieutenant General Brett Sylvia was fired. What do you make of that? Some people say that he leaked information about Ukraine and Iran and that there were conflicts. Does this have any implications for what's to come here?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Now, I don't know that much about this specific incident. I heard about it, but my inclination is to say that there are finally people who are speaking out and people who are objecting in important meetings. And when you do that around Hegseth—and I'm increasingly finding out Caine is the same way... I've gotten my first insights into Caine that are completely negative. And unfortunately, they come from the Pacific community in which he was immersed before he retired and then was brought out of retirement, elevated, and became chairman. So I tend to believe them because they come from people who worked with him at the nitty-gritty level, if you will, through various different scenarios.

And they tell me that, first of all, he's a typical Air Force officer times ten. That is to say, he doesn't understand squat about ground warfare. The second thing they tell me is that he is a go-along-to-get-along type, not the kind like Milley, his predecessor—not his immediate predecessor, but, you know, you remember him from the January 6th days—who might step in there and say something. He won't step in there and say anything, partly because he doesn't know anything, and then partly because his inclination is to go along to get along. So I've gotten a whole new appraisal of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which is truly disturbing.

I always thought that he was at least offering the kind of advice he would give to Congress. Remember when he went before Congress, being taped on C-SPAN, I guess it was? He said, “No bombing campaign in military history that I'm aware of has ever brought an enemy to resolution. It just makes him angry.” And he cited Germany, he cited Japan and other places. And I thought, well, there's an Air Force guy who at least has some sense. Since then, I've learned the very opposite. So I think he's helping Hegseth sort these people out. And it's people like that who they don't want to stay around.

#Danny

Larry, your reaction to this?

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, look, this guy is known as the J5. So, in all of my military exercises for both JSOC and SOCOM, we always worked with the J5. You know, the other two key ones, I would say, are J2, intel, and J3, ops, though some would argue. But, you know, the J5 is there to basically propose strategies, plans, and policy recommendations. So what we don't know is, was he opposing the plans or coming in with, you know, basically a response that the plans the White House wanted weren't going to work? And was he viewed as, you know, a Debbie Downer, you know, the negative nabob?

And that's why I think it's incumbent on him, if he's been removed from that position over policy decisions or because he was being asked to develop plans and strategies that he thought would be destructive, to speak out and speak out soon. Now, he may wait until after next Tuesday. You know, he wants to make sure that the Senate is going to flip to the Democrat side and that he's going to have his ass covered by people like Senator Murphy. Then he can speak out. And at that point, as I may have mentioned earlier—I've been doing so many shows today, I forget. If I start repeating myself like some crotchety old man, just tell me. Say, "Shut up, you've already said that."

But I think that the political change in the Senate will potentially embolden some officers in the same way that the Israeli chief of staff of the Israeli Defense Force, when Netanyahu wanted to go ahead and strike Iran, said, "Okay, yeah, you want to do that? Go to the Knesset, get the Knesset's approval, and then put it in writing. Then we'll do it." And Bibi wouldn't do that. I mean, look, I witnessed it, but I learned more about it after the fact, like the Iran-Contra program. You had a director of operations, a guy named Claire George. He was in charge of the human side, overseeing all the covert actions.

And so he went down to the chief of station in Costa Rica, a guy named Joe Fernandez, and told Joe, "Hey, we need you to do this. We're going to be going around Congress. We're going to ignore the Boland Amendment. We need you to do X, Y, and Z. I got your back." And Joe stupidly said, "Okay, I'll do it." He then went to El Salvador and met with a guy named Jack McCavitt. Jack, unfortunately, has passed, as has Joe. They both have gone on. But McCavitt, he was one smart, tough son of a bitch. I mean, he was just a great, great man. And he listened to Claire. He goes, "Okay, Claire, listen, I'm happy to do that. Just put it down in writing for me, you know, and sign off on it. Give me a signed cable that you are directing me to do this, and I'm happy to do it."

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Oh, Claire was like, "Oh, can't do that."

#Larry Johnson

Now, what happened subsequently, when the whole Iran-Contra scandal blew up? Jack McCavitt didn't get indicted. Joe Fernandez did. And was Claire George covering his back? Oh, no, not at all. So, I mean, that kind of phenomenon goes on within the context of these policies. And if Trump tries now to launch a new war against Iran without going through Congress, in violation, if you will, of the War Powers Act, I guarantee you the Democrats will have the issue laid on their plate to impeach him and likely win a conviction. Because I guarantee you there are enough Republicans in the Senate who would convict Donald Trump for violating the Constitution and taking this country to war, particularly if starting this war leads to the death of a thousand U.S. troops and maybe the sinking of a U.S. aircraft carrier. Those would be disastrous, and Trump would have no place to hide. It was his decision. He didn't seek political support for it.

#Danny

Colonel Wilkes, I know you have a time commitment. So, your final thoughts, and Larry and I will close out here.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I agree with Larry, just about every word. I worked for J5 three times in my career, and I can tell you that it's a very contentious position if you want to make it contentious, because you are the policy, strategy, and plans guy. And you are probably the most important staff officer on the Joint Staff or at PACOM, especially with regard to the immediate future. I worked for the J5 at PACOM. You usually try to make your brainiest guy, your smartest guy, your most cerebral guy the J5. And you need a relationship with the boss that's tolerant of that. If you don't have a boss like Admiral Crowe was for my boss, Admiral Stu Ring, the J5 of PACOM at the time—someone who is tolerant of that and understands it, who might disagree with him from time to time but nonetheless supports him through thick and thin—then you go.

And I've seen a lot of J5s disappear, probably more so than any other member of the staff at that high level. And I suspect that probably has something to do with what's happening here, as Larry intimated. And I think he's absolutely right that we're going to have a lot of people from colonel on up, especially those colonels who are looking at stars possibly in their future, who are going to be really circumspect about what they do and say up until the elections, and then very circumspect afterwards because they're going to be looking at a Democratic Congress.

#Danny

Well, Colonel Wilkerson, thanks so much for joining us. I know you've got just a few minutes until your next program, so take care.

#Larry Johnson

Well, Hugh, let's give him credit. He was here on time, unlike some of us.

#Danny

Yeah, like the person down here.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

That was a miracle because I was cutting and pasting your damn StreamYard link. I couldn't get it to come up.

#Larry Johnson

I'm going to have to stay after school. I'm in detention now.

#Danny

Yeah, Larry's got detention. He's got to stick around for a little longer before he gets recess. All right, bye. Take care.

#Larry Johnson

Give him a punishment.

#Danny

Thanks, Larry. All right. Thanks so much, man. I'll be in touch. Okay. All right. So, Larry, let's close this show up, then. On another breaking note, I don't know if you saw this headline. The New York Times says that Trump and his aides helped Flavio Bolsonaro flee to the United States, flee to Miami. President Trump ensured Flavio Bolsonaro, who lost the presidential election in Brazil and faces multiple criminal investigations there, could enter the U.S., said U.S. officials. Now, my question to you: What's your reaction to this? But also, is this the ultimate fate for Zelensky? Because while Zelensky obviously is in a somewhat different position, this reminded me of him. Your thoughts?

#Larry Johnson

Well, first, it was the CIA that got Bolsonaro out. I guarantee that. You know, they were the ones, and Bolsonaro was in contact, I'm certain, with a CIA handler even before the final votes took place. He had regular contact, and I'm sure they had a potential escape plan for him, because I fully believe that Bolsonaro was perceived as a CIA asset, somebody who would be working in concert with us. And, you know, in these kinds of situations, the CIA keeps its word. So he went through

what's called Foz do Iguaçu. This is the tri-border area where Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay all come together. And they've got the Cataratas del Iguazú, the waterfalls. It's this massive semicircle of waterfalls that is right there at the border. And so he reportedly crossed into Argentina.

And once he got into Argentina, he reportedly caught a flight. Well, who brought in the aircraft? That aircraft had to be prepositioned. So, you know, the CIA's got a variety of contract planes that they can use. He flew to Quito in Ecuador. That's a high-altitude landing, as anybody who's ever done that knows. And then from Quito to Miami. So, you know, he's joined his brother, who's already up here. Their father had previously fled to the United States back when he lost his election to Lula four years ago. But then he went back to Brazil, and he's under house arrest now. I think he was tried and convicted. But instead of sentencing him to prison, they sentenced him basically to confinement at home. But Zelensky would be lucky to have this kind of exit, okay? I think the more likely outcome for Zelensky is he's going to be dead. Yeah. Yeah.

#Danny

Yeah, well, Larry, this was a great program. Any final thoughts on any of these flashpoints and what you find to be most critical as we wrap up here together?

#Larry Johnson

No, I think the one to really keep an eye on now is whether there will be any military strikes before Tuesday. And what happens on Tuesday won't be a slam dunk. I mean, Trump may really want to go forward with it, but as I said earlier, the wild card here is whether the military officers, particularly those who still want to get promoted, assess the situation and realize that Trump suffered a devastating loss in the Senate and the chances of impeachment are high. You may find the military hesitant to carry out certain orders. So we'll see.

#Danny

All right, we will. Everybody, hit the like button before you go. We'll head out of here together. In the video description, you can find Sonar 21 and Transition Protocol. Do subscribe there. And I will see you all tomorrow, and I'll let you know what's going on then. See you all then, 2 p.m. Eastern time, Friday, October 30th. Hit that like button. See you.

#Larry Johnson

And I'll stick around afterwards. We need to talk offline.

#Danny

Yeah, let's do that. All right. Take care, everybody. Check out Larry's work, support this channel, and, of course, hit that like button. See you tomorrow.