



VETERANS FOR PEACE
HUMBOLDT BAY
CHAPTER 56

THE FOGHORN

VOL. 3, ISSUE 2
FEBRUARY 2007

"Cutting Through the Fog of War"

SIR! NO SIR!

Coming Soon to a Theatre Near You!

Great news! Coming Attractions has booked David Zeiger's film *Sir! No Sir!* at the Minor Theatre in Arcata for a week beginning Friday, February 16, 2007.

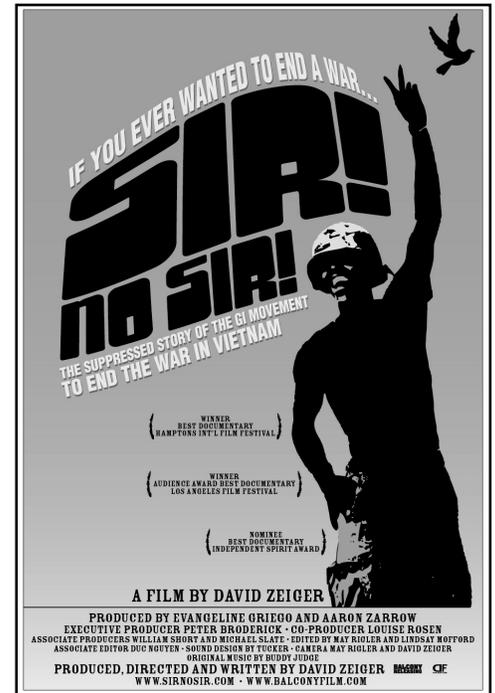
On Sunday, February 18th at 8:00 pm a special screening with a discounted admission price of \$5.50 will be followed by a discussion with special guests, veterans Keith Mather and Tom Bernard. This event is hosted by Veterans For Peace Humboldt Bay Chapter 56.

The Q&A and a post-screening reception at the Redwood Peace & Justice Center (where DVDs will be available for sale) will feature two of the soldiers from the film, Keith Mather and Tom Bernard. A pre-film reception will be held the same evening at RPJC for VFP members and their families and friends.

Sir! No Sir! energetically reveals

the untold story of the GI movement to end the war in Vietnam. This is the story of one of the most vibrant and widespread upheavals of the 1960s—one that had a profound impact on American society, yet has been virtually obliterated from the collective memory of that time. This hidden history combines fast-paced archival footage with thoughtful interviews, "perfectly timed with new doubts about the Iraq War" (*Variety*).

In the summer of 1968, Keith Mather joined the "Nine for Peace," soldiers who refused orders to Vietnam and took sanctuary in a church in San Francisco. After his arrest and confinement in the Presidio stockade, he helped organize a sit-down protest when a mentally ill prisoner was shot and killed by a guard. Facing the death penalty when the Presidio 27, as they became known,



were charged with mutiny, he escaped and lived for 18 years in Canada.

Tom Bernard was trained as a Vietnamese Linguist (Hanoi Dialect) by the US Air Force and spent a total of two years on various assignments in Southeast Asia between 1970 and 1972. It was during that period that he became a member of Vietnam Veterans against the War/Winter Soldier Organization and first active in the GI Movement.

Sir! No Sir! won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the 2005 Los Angeles Independent Film Festival and the Jury Award for Best Documentary at the 2005 Hamptons Film Festival. A near-final version of the film was premiered at the 2005 Veterans For Peace Convention in Dallas, Texas; this will be its first public screening in Humboldt County. Total film length is 84 minutes.

For more information call Becky Luening at 826-9197 or email her at bluening@humboldt1.com.

VFP 56 Retreat & Get Together

Saturday, January 27, 2007 • 2 pm until ???

1821 Buttermilk Lane, Sunnybrae (Arcata)

Please bring a potluck dish and join in the camaraderie of your fellow members. Remember to wear warm socks and bring drums or other percussion instruments if you have them.

Next VFP 56 Meeting

Thursday, February 1, 2007 • 7–9 pm

Marsh Commons, 101 H Street, Arcata

Info: 707-826-7124 • www.vfp56.org

VFP 56 Profile: Founding Member Bill Thompson

by Becky Luening

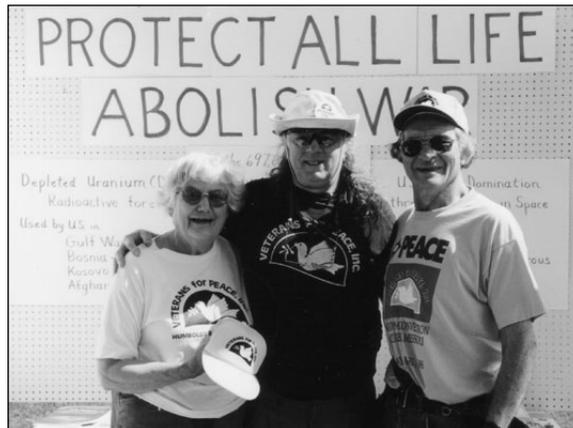
Bill Thompson was the first-born child in a “very Republican,” Midwestern family. Bill’s father was a self-made man with strong connections in the business world as well as in government and academia, and he had high expectations for his eldest son. Well into adulthood, Bill let his father influence his life’s direction rather than getting in touch with his own needs and desires.

While studying Economics at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, Bill enrolled in ROTC simply because it paid a little stipend and it was an easy class. He wasn’t militarily motivated, but neither was he motivated to avoid military service. Thus, upon graduating in June 1951, he found himself a Second Lieutenant in the Army Infantry Reserves, and six months later he was called up. After a year of basic training—during which he married his girlfriend Maureen Lavender—he found himself on the front lines in Korea. Bill served a total of 47 days in Korea before he was shot.

That fateful night on “Pork Chop Hill” was the most traumatic event of Bill’s military experience and probably of his life. Pork Chop Hill was a strategic outpost situated at one of the furthest points north achieved by American forces. What started as a listening post became a platoon post and then a company post, but at a high price. By early 1953 it was costing the Army a battalion every night to ensure Americans would still control the hill in the morning. Meanwhile, truce talks were taking place in Panmunjom.

After having experienced reconnaissance patrol in no man’s land, rescue patrol carrying out dead soldiers, and ambush patrol during which no ambushes actually occurred, Bill was assigned to the 4th Platoon, a mortar platoon that operated in relative safety lobbing mortars from the rear. But on the night of April 17, 1953, after wasting several platoons on defending Pork Chop Hill, the 4th Platoon was called upon to follow suit. As platoon leader, it was Bill’s duty to see that his men followed the order to charge, and he had to threaten them with his own weapon to force them up that hill. Many of them didn’t survive that night. Bill was lucky to be shot through his left elbow and knee, a serious wound but one that healed in a way that didn’t leave him with great disability. Three medics who attempted to move him after he was wounded also ended up getting shot (and probably killed). Eventually Bill rolled himself down the back of the hill to safety.

The fact that Bill stayed in the Army for another six years says much about his lack of direction as a young man, and also the heavy influence of his father, who was very proud of his son’s



Bill and June Thompson (right and left, respectively) pictured with Brian Willson at the VFP-56 4th of July booth, ca. 2003.

service to his nation. Bill’s next assignment was with a transportation company in Fort Ord, California, until he applied to learn German at the Army Language School in Monterey. After the six-month intensive training, in the fall of 1954 he was placed with an intelligence company in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, a holding place for vetting servicemen who had married foreign nationals behind the iron curtain. Bill thought his language training would get him placed in Europe and he was bored stiff in Fort Bragg, so he complained to his Congressional Representative back in California.

With the congressman’s help, finally, in February 1956 Bill began working for an Intelligence Screening Unit in Hanau, Germany, near the border of East Germany. Nine months later, out of the blue, he was called in to work at the Army Security Agency at Army headquarters in Frankfurt in an overt/covert operations office. There he worked in a three-man office which reported to both the Army Security Agency and the National Security Agency.

Bill’s superior officer was a rough, hard-drinking man who had such a good command of German and was such a good mimic of German accents, idioms and mannerisms, he sometimes passed himself off as an ex-SS officer. Their main job was to contact informants in German industry to stay abreast of electronics developments in that country. Bill and his partner covered electronics shows throughout Europe.

Bill’s personal life was a mixed bag. Basically, he says, he was having a good time. One perk he enjoyed was the opportunity to tour different European cities. All the intrigue of being a secret agent and his heavy drinking made for heady times, but a terrible family life. Bill’s wife and four children were in Europe with him, but often didn’t know where he was. His extensive traveling left little time for a meaningful family life.

Professional dangers also put a damper on the fun. Hearing news that an agent from another service got car bombed after one contact sent a chill up Bill’s spine. One time, Bill’s office was attempting to make arrangements to buy a piece of electronic equipment being moved between Russia and Africa by way of Rotterdam. The deal was that someone would pick it up for a price in Rotterdam. Since Bill had previously made a contact and successfully bought an encryption machine from a Swiss manufacturer to be sent to be analyzed at the National Security Agency, it seemed would get the Rotterdam assignment. But after Bill did some research on the name of the contact and found it was a known assassin, everyone in the office seemed to lose interest in the deal. As far as he remembers, this particular



operation was never concluded.

Sick of the military life, Bill wrote to Harvard and Stanford and was accepted to Stanford Business School, where he earned a Masters in Business in a two-year program financed by the G.I. Bill, graduating in 1961. After leaving the Army, he stayed in the Reserves for a while, and served one more summer at the Two Rock Ranch, an International listening post near Tomales Bay. After that, he severed his relationship with all things military except the VA, which provides him a disability allowance for his war wounds.

Bill feels his military career was very revealing in that he learned a lot more than most people about the games played in military intelligence and the high cost and inefficiencies of the military system in general. Through his studies for his Masters in Business, Bill gained a new level of understanding of the economics of war, and a realistic understanding of “how the world works.”

Most of Bill’s classmates later became venture capitalists. He admits he could have been a good salesman, if there had been a product he believed in, but Bill was being pulled in a different direction. Stanford gave students the opportunity to take additional classes outside of the business school. He took classes in South American History, Comparative Religion, and Humanistic Psychology. Eventually his interest in cutting-edge psychology led Bill and his wife to take part in a controlled educational LSD experience that cost them \$500 a piece. For Bill it was a profound and unifying experience; for Maureen, it was destructive.

Looking for adventure, Bill impulsively booked himself and his family on the Santos Maru, a freighter heading to Sao Paulo, Brazil in search of gold and other riches. While waiting for the trip to begin, he studied Portuguese and attended a seminar on the words of Jesus as teacher. Unemployed with a wife and four children to support, with no interest in becoming a businessman, Bill was in deep need of a vision. During the seminar, he worked himself into a sweat until he finally cracked and received a vision of sorts: He experienced an emotional recognition of everyone who had ever been kind to him. One by one, he consciously reviewed the kind acts of teachers, friends, anyone who had ever given him a sense of well being or offered him a pat on the shoulder or an encouraging word. After this strong emotional experience, Bill came to the realization that he wanted to become a teacher. The letter he wrote to his friends in Sao Paulo saying he wasn’t coming crossed in the mail with their letter telling him their business had folded.

It took some time and experience before Bill zeroed in on exactly what kind of teacher he would be. While taking teaching courses he worked as a substitute in Vista, in southern California, first at a junior college, then high school and junior high. Finally he subbed in a fifth grade class for three months and loved it, and so decided to become an elementary school teacher.

By this time Bill also had decided where he wanted to teach—Palo Alto, California—and he proceeded to make this happen through sheer determination. He was allowed to enroll in the San Jose State University accelerated teacher credential program by assuring SJSU he had a job in the Palo Alto School District,

which was promised only if he were enrolled at SJSU—a classic Catch 22 that Bill solved by hooking up the respective administrators on the telephone.

In the summer of 1968, Bill became a single parent when his wife left him with the three children still at home. That fall, June Miller arrived to teach Kindergarten next to his 1st and 2nd grade class. Their love of singing led to a happy friendship and they were married in 1970.

Largely influenced by June, Bill became more and more involved in the peace and justice movement during his teaching years and beyond. Bill and June focused initially on nuclear disarmament, which evolved later into the abolition of war, a focus that has endured through their 36 years of marriage. In 1982, they began protesting at Livermore Lab, which led to arrests and jail-time at many nuclear sites around the country.

Meanwhile, in 1982, June’s sister, Justine Merritt, envisioned A Ribbon Around the Pentagon composed of cloth panels depicting “what I cannot bear to lose in a nuclear war.” The response was so great that in 1985 the Ribbon ultimately tied the Pentagon to the Capitol.

That same year, Bill and June joined a Fellowship of Reconciliation tour to attend the World Conference Against A- and H-bombs in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Okinawa. They represented the US Ribbon when the Japanese version encircled the A-bomb dome to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the first use of nuclear weapons. In 1986, they joined the Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament culminating in Washington, DC.

After taking early retirement, Bill and June moved to Humboldt in 1989. They first focused on land preservation, co-founding the Jacoby Creek Land Trust in order to create a conservation easement to protect farmland and natural habitat. This has led to protection of many acres in the Jacoby Creek Watershed.

In 1991, a Marine veteran named Robert Owen called the first organizing meeting for a Humboldt Bay chapter of Veterans For Peace. Also involved in the initial organizing was Clarissa Ingabetsen, another Marine vet. Bill attended the first meeting and subsequently became treasurer of the organization. After Robert moved away, Clarissa and Bill became co-directors. Eventually Clarissa moved on as well. Bill sought new members by doing outreach through talk radio on KHSU and the Unitarian Fellowship and kept the chapter afloat by ensuring there were always at least ten members. Around the time Brian Willson moved to Arcata in 2002, the chapter enjoyed a new wave of growth.

Bill’s rediscovery of himself as a nurturer rather than a killer or a manipulator has given him much satisfaction in life. He notes there is a lot of sexy stuff about the military and the stock market that isn’t often mentioned—i.e., the thrill of the kill, or the thrill of making a killing in the market. But his early life experiences helped him see the meaninglessness of these thrills, and eventually led him in pursuit of something richer. Now he understands that if someone has shelter, food, and a loving companion, life can be pretty sweet.



Guilty for Speaking Out

by Leah Bolger, VFP Chapter 132, Corvallis, Oregon

So now I am a convict. I was arrested, handcuffed, searched, shackled, interrogated, charged, imprisoned, arraigned, prosecuted, and tried. The trial process took 5 days, and the jury deliberated for 12 hours before finding me guilty. The judge sentenced me to 5 days incarceration, suspended, 6 months probation, \$200 assessment (to be paid to the Victims of Violent Crime Fund), and 100 hours of community service. What did I do...? I stood in the gallery of the House of Representatives and shouted opposition to the Military Commissions Act for 29 seconds.

The Military Commissions Act (MCA) has been denounced by the American Bar Association, the American College of Trial Lawyers, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Center for Constitutional Rights among many others. It ignores international law and is a breach of the US Constitution. It suspends the writ of habeas corpus for foreign prisoners, and legalizes torture. Furthermore, our Supreme Court has already ruled that the Bush administration acted outside the law with regard to prisoner detention in Cuba. The MCA retroactively exonerates their illegal actions. Simply put, it is an egregious affront to our judicial system. It was signed into law by President Bush on October 17, 2006.

The evening after I had been sentenced, I attended a live videoconference with ex-Guantanamo detainee, Moazzam Begg and his lawyer, Gitanjali Gutierrez of the Center for Constitutional Rights. Moazzam is a British citizen who was working to construct a girls school in Afghanistan when he was taken into custody by US military forces. He was tortured and held as a prisoner in Cuba and at the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan for over 4 years; much of that time in solitary confinement. He was never charged with a crime, nor shown any evidence against him. Due in great part to his British citizenship, he was finally released and repatriated, but for well over 400 prisoners still being held in Guantanamo, the nightmare continues. These men do not speak English, have had no contact with their families or access to news or any reading material other than the Koran. By our government's own admission, a significant percentage of those detained at Guantanamo have no connection to terrorism. We have been holding for several years, and intend to hold indefinitely without trial or any recourse to justice, a substantial number of innocent people who were picked up wrongly. Furthermore, the MCA says that we can torture them and use any information gained through torture against them, should we ever

decide to prosecute.

It is the height of irony that simply by standing up and raising my voice, I committed a crime that was punished to the full extent of the law, and while I was committing that crime, Congress was dismantling the cornerstone of our entire judicial system by negating the fundamental protection against arbitrary arrest and imprisonment.

By going through this entire legal process, I was able to gain an understanding of our judicial system, which I never would have had otherwise. Although I believe mine was definitely a case of misplaced justice, I did receive all the protections of the law. I knew the reason I was arrested, and when I would be released. I was

allowed to testify in my own defense, and be represented by an attorney. I was shown the evidence presented against me, and my case was heard by a jury of 12 people. What I went through helped me gain a tiny bit of insight into the imperative value of habeas corpus protection. I cannot, nor can anyone, truly imagine what it is like to be imprisoned indefinitely, subjected to torture, held in solitary confinement, and unable to communicate with anyone. If these men are ever released, they will have emotional scars that will never heal. Many of them will have gone insane, and others will take their own lives. The damage that has been done in our country's name is permanent and irreconcilable.

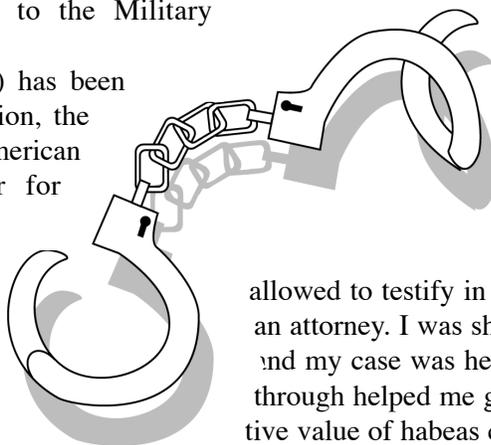
What Congress and the President have done is completely illegal and unconstitutional. I believe we have caused irreparable harm to our credibility as a moral authority, and we have now set the standard by which we can expect US citizens to be treated by other governments. Many experts are confident that ultimately, the Supreme Court will find this law unconstitutional. But we should not wait for that long process to run its course. This despicable law must be revoked immediately.

Contact the Center for Constitutional Rights to learn more and to support their efforts to overturn this abomination: <http://www.ccr-ny.org/v2/gac/>

Leah Bolger is a 20-year Navy Commander (retired). She lives in Corvallis, Oregon with her husband Bart who is a 24-year Navy Commander (retired). Both are charter members of Veterans For Peace Chapter 132 in Corvallis, Oregon's second chapter, which was founded on January 24, 2006. They have been VFP members since the fall of 2004.

SOURCE: <http://www.veteransforpeace.org>

[Submitted by Becky Luening.]



PEACE POEM

1,000 — 2,000 — 3,000
 The camera and microphone in my face
 The reporter asks about the upcoming milestone . . .
 Some fictitious number minimized by the Pentagon, of those American GIs killed in Iraq

“What does 1,000 mean to you?”
 Sitting beside the Arlington West Memorial on the beach in Santa Barbara . . .
 I look at the sea of crosses . . . what do I see? What do I feel?
 Too many killed. Too many wasted lives. Too many
 Mothers, Fathers, Sons, Daughters, Sisters, Brothers, Grandparents, Cousins,
 Fiancés, Friends, Neighbors, Co-Workers, Classmates, Grieving!
 What might they have created during their lives? We’ll never know.
 Not to mention the 10x more wounded & maimed & disabled.
 Do you really want to know?
 Not to mention the 30x more suffering PTSD — many without hope.
 Not to mention those who have already committed suicide of despair,
 Or died since they came home.
 Not to mention the tens of thousands of Iraqi’s — children, women, men —
 Killed and wounded. Not to mention their loved ones!
 They don’t want to hear this!

“What does 2,000 mean to you?”
 Looking out at the array of candles at Lake Merritt,
 A picture that would spread around the world via internet.
 Mothers and Fathers growing old without their children.
 Children growing up without their parents.
 Mates missing their beloved. Sisters missing. Brothers missing.
 The empty spaces left in countless lives, countless families, countless communities.
 The survivors’ guilt plaguing those left behind.
 Do you really want to know more?
 The hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians, not to mention soldiers or “insurgents”
 Who have perished or been wounded . . . and those lives forever lost or scarred.

“What does 3,000 me to you?”
 Preparing for yet another upcoming memorial,
 30-50,000 GIs, men and women, wounded . . . and living with those wounds the rest of their lives, missing
 arms, legs, eyes, scarred, brains traumatized, struggling just to live day to day.
 More than one million of our troops circulated through the war zone.
 They’re all harmed in one way or another. Their families are harmed in one way or another.
 Most will eventually suffer PTSD, or worse.
 Tens of thousands will suicide from what they saw and did.
 Do you really want to know more?
 Families of MIA, missing in action, unresolved loss for unknown duration.
 Not to mention the countless women GIs in Iraq being raped and assaulted by our own GIs!
 Do you know we have had HOMELESS IRAQ VETERANS FOR YEARS ALREADY!!!
 What about “Depleted Uranium” and our troops and the Iraqis? Their offspring?
 And theirs? And theirs? And theirs?
 The 3,000 are the tip of the iceberg.

— Sharon Lee Kufeldt
 December 13, 2006

Sharon Kufeldt, a Veteran of the US Air Force (1969-1971), serves as Vice President on the Veterans For Peace Board of Directors and is President of VFP Chapter 71, Sonoma County.
 [Submitted by Fred Hummel.]



Lt. Ehren Watada Court Martial Set for February 5



“We have all been deceived. The American people have the power to end this war.”

—1st Lt. Ehren Watada

On June 22, 2006, US Army 1st Lieutenant Ehren K. Watada stepped forward as the first commissioned officer to publicly refuse deployment to the Iraq War and occupation. The 28-year-old Honolulu native argued that the war is illegal because Bush did not obtain proper authorization for it, and that Army rules and the Nuremberg principles adopted after World War II required him to disobey orders to participate. The lieutenant now faces court martial and up to 6 years imprisonment for refusing to deploy and for speaking out against a war that he believes is illegal. His military trial date is set for February 5.

Watada’s attorneys had planned to argue that the war was illegal because it violated Army regulations that wars must be waged in accordance with the United Nations charter. Many anti-war activists have been anticipating this opportunity to “put the war on trial.” But in a ruling released January 16 the military judge in the case, Lt. Col. John M. Head, said the question of whether the war is lawful is a political question that could not be judged in a military court, and ruled that Watada cannot base his court-martial defense on the war’s legality. Head also rejected lawyers’ claims that Watada’s First Amendment rights shielded him from charges stemming from his criticism of the war, saying courts have ruled that soldiers do not enjoy the same degree of free-speech protections as civilians.

“We have been stripped of every defense,” said Eric A. Seitz, Watada’s lawyer. “This is a disciplinary system, not a justice system. Otherwise, we would have been entitled to defend ourselves.” He vowed to appeal any conviction to the federal courts.

Watada responded to the ruling by reaffirming his stance that the war is illegal and immoral. He urged the public to “fulfill their civic obligations” to protest and to “stop the war so that the death and sacrifices of American soldiers will not be in vain.”

The support campaign continues . . .

A Citizens Hearing on the Legality of US Actions in Iraq held in Tacoma on January 20-21 provided an opportunity for experts to present their research into the war’s legality, and for those personally affected by the Iraq War to present their

experiences. Dr. Zoltan Grossman of the tribunal organizing committee asserted, “The discussion within the White House and Congress has focused on how to fight the war, not why it is being fought. Under these circumstances, US citizens (including military veterans and families) have the responsibility to start asking tough questions about the underlying premises of the war.”

Monday, February 5, 2007 has been declared a National Day of Action against the Iraq war and in support of Lt. Watada during his military court martial. The day-long vigil will begin with a student rally featuring members of Iraq Veterans Against the War at 11:30. Other solidarity actions are planned in local communities across the country. For details, or to post your own plans, visit the official support campaign website at <<http://www.thankyoult.org/>>.

Watada’s support committee is also encouraging folks to petition President Bush and the Army to accept Lt. Watada’s resignation. We all know the Iraq War is illegal and immoral, yet inquiries to Congress about Lt. Watada’s case garner polite, standard responses—they care, they respect his decision, but it’s not their responsibility to speak to the military on Lt. Watada’s behalf. It’s *our* responsibility to tell *our* government: “We support Lt. Watada’s courageous stand against US preemptive war and occupation in Iraq. Do not punish him for standing up for the Constitution and international law.”

You may send email messages to President Bush and your congressional representatives with the click of a mouse at: <http://ga0.org/campaign/write_bush/wbs878urab88t67>. Better yet, contact them directly via fax, email or phone. **Citizens are encouraged to take action by February 9th.** Feel free to personalize the following sample letter:

Re: Accept Lt. Watada’s Resignation

Dear [decision maker],

The best course of action for the army, the nation and 1st Lt. Ehren Watada is for the army to accept Lt. Watada’s resignation and give him an honorable or general discharge. Voters sent a clear message in the November, 2006 elections that they oppose the war in Iraq. War resisters who refuse to deploy to Iraq should not be sentenced to prison for expressing their beliefs. The Iraq war is illegal. It’s time for the army to accept Lt. Watada’s resignation.

SOURCES: *Thank You Lt. Ehren Watada website* <<http://www.thankyoult.org/>>; “Military Court Rules Against Objector’s Defense,” *Associated Press*, January 17, 2007; Teresa Watanabe, “Officer Facing Court-Martial Denounces War,” *Los Angeles Times*, January 17, 2007. [Pieced together by Becky Luening.]

Listen to a January 25th interview with Lt. Ehren Watada at <<http://www.freshair.com/>>



Breaking Ranks: Troops Call for Iraq Withdrawal

by Charles E. Anderson, *truthout* guest contributor

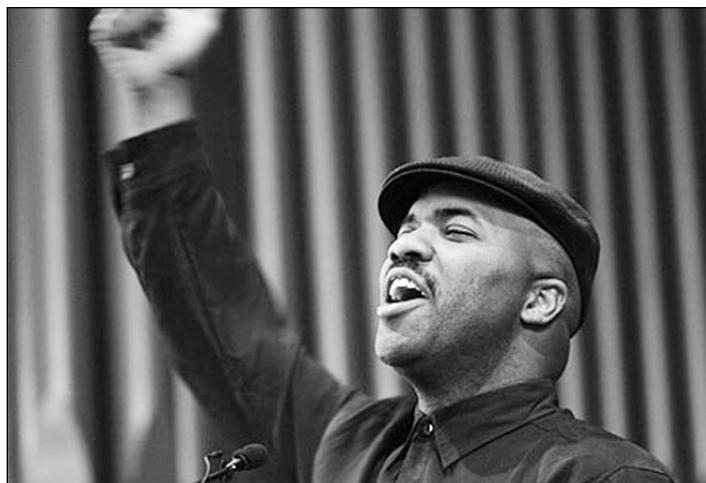
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA—On Wednesday, January 10, President George W. Bush announced that he would be sending 21,500 more troops to Iraq as early as Monday. “The escalation of this war is very disappointing,” said Mass Communications Specialist Third Class, Jonathan Hutto, 29, a sailor stationed aboard the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt. Ironically, as the additional troops begin arriving in Iraq Monday morning, Hutto and other active duty troops will hold a press conference at a church in Norfolk. On Tuesday morning, the group will travel to Washington to present the Appeal for Redress of Grievances from the US Congress to US Representative Dennis Kucinich.

The Appeal for Redress of Grievances, which relies on whistleblower protection laws, calls for “the prompt withdrawal of all American military forces and bases from Iraq” and represents the first organized active-duty military movement to oppose the war and occupation of Iraq since Vietnam. To date, over 1,000 active-duty members of the US military have signed it. While signers of the appeal span the ranks from private to rear admiral, the average signatory is a corporal or sergeant and has completed at least one tour of duty in Iraq. “These [service members] are your basic typical young Americans,” says Hutto. In fact, the signatories of the appeal are as varied as the backgrounds of all men and women in the military. “Some of them have college experience; some of them don’t. Some of them came straight out of high school. Some of them worked some common jobs,” Hutto observes. But he goes on to say, “That’s what a mass movement is. A mass movement is people that all come from different walks of life, different thinking and whatnot. But the central theme is that what is taking place in Iraq is not working, and we have got to find a different solution.”

Hutto readily identifies himself first as a patriotic sailor on duty, but off duty “officially citizen sailor.” His personal story is really no different from that of the thousands of men and women currently serving in the armed forces. He graduated from Howard University with a bachelor’s degree in political science and began a career teaching grade school in Maryland. But Hutto “did not find much success.” Unemployed and facing more than \$40,000 in student loans, he sought out a navy recruiter. Though he had a substantial background in activism, Hutto did not expect to organize within the military itself. That changed shortly after he joined the navy, when one of his former professors sent him a copy of David Cortwright’s *Soldiers in Revolt*, a book that profiles active duty resistance to the Vietnam War. Hutto says it was after reading the book that he came to believe “there is no contradiction . . . between serving out your duty and having a questioning attitude

towards those orders [and] those directives that are given down from your chain of command, especially as it pertains to war, especially as it pertains to this current occupation, especially as it pertains to how resources are allocated in our society.”

When asked what changed his mind about the Iraq War, Hutto replies that there is an assumption that service in Iraq is



CHRIS CURRY/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Mass Communications Specialist Third Class, Jonathan Hutto, a 29-year-old sailor stationed aboard the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt, speaks at a January 15th rally at a Norfolk church. The *Virginian-Pilot* reported that Hutto spoke of the need to separate dissent from disloyalty. “The truth must be told,” he said.

the primary reason young people join the military today. “That is not the case,” he says, “That is not the overriding issue as to why men and women join the military today. The overriding issue is not raw patriotism, although I am not going to say that the people in the military are . . . unpatriotic, they are proud of [their] country. But the overriding issue is one of economics. It is one of sustainability. It’s being in a society where there are not enough resources, where there is not a right to education and job security. For a lot of these young people in the military it is a way out.” Hutto is not alone. As few as thirty-five percent of Americans support the war. It is not surprising that support for the war within the military is declining.

Charles E. Anderson served in Iraq with the Marine Corps’ Second Tank Battalion during the invasion of Iraq. During his nine-year career, he served in infantry, armor, and medical units. He lives in Hampton, Virginia, where he is a World Studies student at Thomas Nelson Community College. He can be contacted through his website at <http://www.charlese-anderson.com>.

SOURCE: <<http://www.truthout.com/>>, Sunday, January 14, 2007. [Submitted by Jim Sorter.]





**Veterans For Peace
Humboldt Bay
Chapter 56**

Phone: 707-826-7124
Email: VFP56@aol.com
<http://www.vfp56.org>

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rob Hepburn, Steve Stamnes
Kathie Kelly, Linda Sorter
Jim Sorter, Steve Sottong
Gordon Anderson

STANDING COMMITTEES

**Weapons of Mass
Destruction/DU:**
Peter Aronson

General Store: Doug Smith

Media: Becky Luening

**Veterans Education and
Outreach Project:**
Carl Stancil & Jon Reisdorf

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

If you would like to submit an article, opinion, comment or response to anything you have read that might interest the members of VFP-56, please email it to turtldnccr@aol.com in Word format, or mail to Jim Sorter at 1762 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata, CA 95521. Submissions will be included on a first come basis until the newsletter is full. Late arriving submissions will be archived for future issues.

“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the clouds of war, it is humanity hanging on a cross of iron.”

— President Dwight D. Eisenhower's words upon departing office in 1961



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