



## Stand Down '07 Big Success Thanks to Volunteer Dedication

*by Mark B. Knipper, former RMSN (SS)*

North Coast Stand Down '07 was a roller coaster ride for me. I must thank Food Services Coordinator Shirley Stancliff (who also participated as a panelist at our PTSD/Human Trauma event), Executive Director Kim Hall and her daughter Jordan, Scott Barton and his 3-year-old son Brendan, and all the Veterans For Peace volunteers for helping to smooth out the ride. I'm also very grateful to my personal support team: Nezzie Wade, Verbena (aka Kim Starr), Mashaw McGuinnis, Carol Pridgeon and Jane Riggan. Having my friends from VFP and WILPF there along with the stellar stand down committee was phenomenal and allowed me to do my part with "grace."



With my personal support system in place, I set out on my Stand Down '07 journey. I dealt with a lot, from bees to boogie men, peace to chaos. Scott Barton, a marine veteran of Desert Storm and Peacekeeper Coordinator at the stand down, worked with me so that I got six hours sleep each night. The two of us stayed on site with a core group that included: Dale and Art of Red Cross and their staff; Patti Toroni, a military veteran and HSU Social Work student who served as Outreach Coordinator, shuttle van provider and overnight kitchen staff; and Steve Dellay, a corpsman in Vietnam who was our webmaster and Entertainment Coordinator. Executive Director Kim Hall and I worked together on site coordination. She had Bellotti Hall and I was responsible for the rest of the site, although she helped there as well.

Red Cross, Pet Services and Women and Children's Services came through big time. Bill Thompson said he was impressed to see the provisions made for people who live in cars, those with dogs, and the single parents, including one man with a beautiful 2-year-old daughter. The provision of daycare and pet-sitting helped vets focus on getting the help they needed, whether it was getting clothing, finding a roommate to help with the rent, or seeking legal, housing or health services. The kitchen and entertainment went smoothly as well, basically running their own show with very little need of assistance from the Site Coordinator.

In general, Stand Down '07 was excellent and went much smoother than last time, with only a few wrinkles still to be ironed out. On the downside, we had to deal with a swarm of bees, and folks hoarding clothing and such from the free table. Tempers flared and there were some personality conflicts to

mediate among staff as well as participants. But overall many people, including friend Nezzie Wade and Congressperson Patti Berg, said the event felt very pleasant and peaceful. Behind the scenes, coordinators rushed about taking care of many small but important logistical tasks, so many that I cannot remember them all. Site Coordination is kind of a learn-by-the-seat-of-your-pants position: you're thrown into it and you either sink or swim. My assessment is that we need multiple coordinators for all positions with a larger focus on transportation and assertive outreach.

Those of us who made the point of recruiting extra volunteers at the last minute were really glad we did, because they filled in for the many volunteers who did not show. The last-minute volunteers literally saved our ass. For example, a guy named Tom, left behind by a woman friend prior to the event, had no alternative plans so he became a volunteer Peacekeeper and did an excellent job, constantly going the extra mile to help make the event a success. Another last-minute volunteer was local houseless activist Verbena, who spent Friday night with the critters in Pet Services. These folks and many others who were able to fill key jobs in security, food service and pet services really saved us because I am aware of at least 10-15 volunteers who were no shows!

I want to acknowledge VFP Chapter 56 volunteers Bill Thompson, Jim and Linda Sorter, Richard Gilchrist, Bob Saemmer, Dave Tschoepe, Jane Riggan, Mashaw Mc Guinness, Carl Stancil, Carol Pridgeon, Laura Simpson and Rob Hepburn for attending and helping support the Stand Down. Again, I could not have done any of my multiple tasks without the love, support and actions of Vets For Peace and WILPF members. Bill drove shuttle on Friday and Jim took my friend Walter all the way to Willits to retrieve his car after the Spirit of Laytonville broke down outside of Fortuna. Carl, Jane and Rob filled in at the kitchen and Carl helped get clothing sorted and folded for distribution on Sunday. Richard and Bob tabled during the event both Friday and Saturday.

Stand Down offers a space for thoughtful, non-adversarial dialogue and alternative points of view from all sides of the political spectrum. There is no place to be reactionary. While staffing the VFP table, Richard Gilchrist had no qualms about reaching out and attempting to educate VFW veterans about DU. In

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## Coachella Passes Resolution to Bring Home National Guard Troops

*Reprinted from the VFP Jon Castro Chapter 19 newsletter, June 14, 2007*

COACHELLA, CA—This city became the first in the Inland Empire to pass a resolution that Mayor Eduardo Garcia said calls “for a new strategy in Iraq.” Garcia said he has a responsibility to make sure the city is prepared for a major earthquake. Garcia said the war is a political matter as the Congress and President debate the policy. However he said this should not prevent Coachella from taking a position on the war.

After the historic vote Garcia commented that he was happy his city had taken a position on a controversial issue and will be known as a progressive city. Before the meeting the mayor took the time to shake hands and walk with the VFP delegation into the council chambers. In response to a question, the mayor said he was prepared for Coachella to make history. [VFP member] Tom Swann spoke briefly to the council and said the vote would be important as the State Assembly is preparing to take a vote on a similar resolution. Swan said it was important for cities like Coachella to inform Assembly member Bonnie Garcia of their views on a pending action before the legislature.

One council member said he has met with many soldiers who have served in Iraq. They told him they did not want to return to Iraq. Others told this council member that they would not re-enlist and thus terminate their military career because of the Iraq War. This council member said he felt a new strategy was necessary in Iraq. He said he was voting yes because of the feedback the soldiers have given him about the war. And he stressed that it was his duty to vote the way his constituents have expressed themselves. Recently a delegation of Iraq Veterans Against War had an exhibit at the Coachella Music Festival with videos showing the mistakes we have made in Iraq. Father Bruce said last week Our Lady of Soledad Catholic Church will begin a video series against the war starting around July 15.

The Coachella vote comes at the same time a new poll shows for the first time rural America no longer supports the current Bush policy in Iraq. History may show that Coachella was the first rural city in America to seek a new plan in what may become an avalanche toward rural America saying to bring National Guard troops home.

There was a tense moment. The resolution was on the consent calendar and four council members were present. About 45 minutes into the meeting the lone Republican on the council came into the chambers just in time to remove the resolution from the consent calendar. He asserted that the resolution was partisan and that supporters did not live in Coachella and should not be ordering Coachella what to do. This council member has been sick and was absent on April 25 when resi-

dents of Coachella spoke in favor of the resolution. This council member alleged that the other four members were using the resolution for political purposes to help them seek higher office....

After the vote Tom Swann praised city attorney Carlos Campos who made revisions to the VFP draft resolution. The draft was similar to what Senator Carole Migden had adopted in the State Senate on a partisan vote. The city attorney removed whereas clauses that Bush lied about the reasons for the war, that the war was about oil, that it cost too much money etc. Swann received an advance copy of the final resolution and praised the city attorney because a good resolution should cover only one subject. Carlos Campos made sure the resolution stuck to the central theme about the deployment of the National Guard in Iraq and how that strategy has an impact on city residents. Swann said the allegation that the resolution intent was partisan is groundless because several prominent Republicans like Henry Kissinger, Oliver North and the Iraq Study Group have also called for a new strategy in Iraq with less troops and more diplomacy. Swann said, “I realize this council member has been sick. However, he cast a vote without doing much research on the war issue. If he is going to take a matter off the consent calendar, then he needs to offer more information to the debate. He presented no explanation why the National Guard should stay in Iraq. It appears he only could offer the talking points he found on the Republican web page.”



### Text of the Resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA, CALLING UPON THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TO TAKE STEPS TO WITHDRAW THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS FROM IRAQ

WHEREAS, the City of Coachella City Council strongly supports the women and men serving in the United States Armed Forces in Iraq, and recognizes the sacrifices that each of them is making, honors the memory of those who have lost their lives in the war, and supports the families who have lost their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, many of Americans would like to see a with-

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drawal of US troops from Iraq, but there is, to date, no exit strategy; and

WHEREAS, there are significant costs for the call-up of California National Guard members for deployment in Iraq as evidenced in lost lives, combat injuries, psychic trauma, disruption of family life, and financial hardship for individuals, families and businesses, as well as interruption of careers; and

WHEREAS, Californians have joined the National Guard under the premise that they would be serving their neighbors by assisting with California-based emergencies, unless there was a danger to the United States requiring transfer to active duty; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has encountered major earthquakes, fires, and floods for which Californians in the National Guard have served and protected the residents as they agreed to when joining this branch of service; and

WHEREAS, there is reason to believe that the federalization and deployment of National Guard members has rendered the remaining National Guard force unable to carry out its state activities effectively and be able to serve the residents of the State of California in the event of another major earthquake, fire, or disaster; and

WHEREAS, Pentagon officials are already considering a significant increase in U.S. troop levels in Iraq, the bulk of the surge coming from the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of similar resolutions have been enacted by cities and counties across the U.S.;

WHEREAS, the California cities of Arcata, Berkeley, Davis, Oakland, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and Sebastopol, and the County of Marin have enacted such measures, and registered them throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the City Council to act on behalf and in the best interest of the residents of the City of Coachella; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is empowered to make such resolutions as may be necessary to protect the public interest, and for the preservation of health, welfare, peace, and order.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Coachella City Council calls upon the California State Legislature, and the Governor of the State of California, to insure that the President of the United States and U.S. Congress take appropriate steps to withdraw the California National Guard troops from Iraq.

2. The City Clerk send a copy of this Resolution to California State Governor Schwarzenegger, members of the California State Legislature, U.S. President Bush, and to each member of the California Congressional Delegation.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: *The final version of the resolution passed by the Coachella City Council may differ slightly this draft, which was received via email the day before the vote took place.*]



## >>> **HELP WANTED** <<< VFP Seeking Volunteers for Festival Food Booth & Local Food Prep

VFP Chapter 56 needs lots of volunteer involvement to successfully pull off our fundraising food booth at Reggae Rising on the weekend of August 3-5. We will be serving chili rellenos, carne asada tacos, seitan asada tacos, black beans, rice, possibly green salad, and cheesecake.

We plan to do most all the food prep ourselves with the help and guidance of Tamra of Celebrations Catering. We have the Foodworks kitchen in Arcata reserved from 11 am until 7 pm on three consecutive days—Sat., July 28 through Mon., July 30.

The rellenos and rice will be prepared and cooked all three days, yet the focus on Sunday, the 29th of July, will be slicing hundreds of pounds of organic range-fed beef for probably six hours. Many, many volunteers are needed for these three days of food preparation. If you are willing to commit to any blocks of times (even tentatively), please let Gordy know at 498-5889.

A crew will set up the booth on site Thursday, July 26 through Saturday, July 28. Some crew members will camp at one of two reserved campsites at Richardson's Grove. All workers may stay at the vendor camp during the festival. If you are (or know folks who would be) committed to working a 4-5 hour shift each of the three days of the festival, and are willing to really work to keep the booth running smoothly, contact either Peter at 442-3009 or Gordy at 498-5889.

A crew organizational meeting will be held either Wednesday, July 18 or Thursday, July 19. A review of all booth and festival activities will be presented at that time.

Contributors of start-up money are encouraged and needed. Contact Peter at 442-3009 if you can help in that way. Anyone wanting more information may call either Peter or Gordy.



# Duped by DU? It's NOT "Depleted"!

by June Thompson, Associate Member of VFP 56

At the start of your lead article in the June issue of *The Foghorn*, I immediately thought "Depleted Uranium" as I read about the grievous deformities suffered by an American soldier in Iraq. Later, this proved to be the case.

Then followed the usual denials—"no problem," "only experts are qualified to make this judgment"—and the give-away line: "...the effectiveness of weapons and armor made with depleted uranium outweighs any residual effects."

Well, when you stare at a photograph of an infant with a distorted face, a missing skull and her brain exposed, you don't react in terms of "residual effect." Horrific birth defects in Iraqi infants since DU was used there in 1991 have been fully documented ever since.<sup>1</sup>

Do these graphic accounts make any difference to our weaponeers? NO! Currently, Livermore Lab is seeking a permit to drastically increase testing at Site 300. If approved, "the Lab could detonate up to 4,500 pounds of depleted uranium each year in open-air bomb tests with no control technology to reduce airborne emissions."<sup>2</sup>

According to retired Livermore Lab staff scientist Marion Fulk, Uranium 238 (also called depleted uranium) can be very dangerous to living systems. "Because of its properties, Uranium 238 is a triple threat to human health. Its properties as a heavy metal create health damage once inside the body. Its properties as a hazardous chemical catalyst cause additional health risks. And its properties as a radioactive material offer a third route to cellular and DNA damage, illness and premature death in human and animals," said Fulk.<sup>3</sup>

Expand "humans and animals" to all living organisms on our beautiful earth and you are no longer looking at life but an anguished travesty of the natural world.

What makes this even more appalling is that we have known of these consequences since at least October, 1969 when Dr. John Gofman and Arthur Tamplin first presented a paper on estimated deaths from radiation.<sup>4</sup> They later published a book stating flatly that "No amount of ionizing radi-

ation is safe."<sup>5</sup> High-level radiation kills cells outright (hence its use in cancer treatment) while low-level radiation causes cells to mutate.

Does our government know this? Of course it does. Pre-Desert Storm reports clearly outline the dangers while post-1991 reports constantly minimize or deny them.<sup>6</sup> The costs of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have already bankrupted our country. There is no possibility of meeting the healthcare needs of returning veterans (and their children). Hence, the VA has never attributed any illness to DU through all the years of its use.

We can be thankful that Peter Aronson and the DU/WMD Committee of Chapter 56 enlisted the support of Senator Chesbro to steer a bill through the State Legislature to enact the Veterans Health and Safety Act of 2006. It requires the California Department of Veterans Affairs to inform eligible service members of their right to request screening.

Is there any way to follow up on this to see if they have been so informed and that the screening is thorough? Given the repeated lies from the "experts," we must remain vigilant and work tirelessly to make sure that this scourge is forever banned.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>Takashi Morizumi, *Children of the Gulf War* (Global Association for Banning Depleted Uranium Weapons, 2002).

<sup>2</sup>*Citizen's Watch*, May 2007 (Tri-Valley CAREs, 2582 Old First St., Livermore, CA 94551, [www.trivalleycares.org](http://www.trivalleycares.org)).

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup>Leslie J. Freeman, Chapter 4, *Nuclear Witnesses: Insiders Speak Out* (W.W.Norton, 1981).

<sup>5</sup>John W. Gofman and Arthur R. Tamplin, "Is Any Radiation Safe?" Chapter 4, *Poisoned Power* (Rodale Press, 1971, 1979).

<sup>6</sup>*Selected Quotes from Government Reports on Depleted Uranium* (Swords to Plowshares, 1060 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415-252-4788, [www.swords-to-plowshares.org](http://www.swords-to-plowshares.org)).





## The Corporate Armies

by Larry Hourany, Ph.D.

Dwight Eisenhower was one of the most honest, decent politicians ever to get elected to the Presidency. He was also prescient. He warned us of the erection of a military-industrial complex that was about to shove a cannon where none had ever gone before. This was a new portion of our society that was dedicated solely to the production of the means to prosecute wars.

Now, we have a military that requires vast amounts of fuel, we have weapons manufacturers supplying them with the weapons to secure that fuel—wherever it is—and we have the corporations that capitalize on this parasitic abomination.

But to keep this cancer growing, a new player has entered the ranks. The Bush regime has endorsed the establishment of private armies. This is no Robocop fantasy. These heavily armed mercenaries are not some buffer between us poor civilians and some out-of-control government. These are private militias answerable only to their corporate masters—the very thing most of us fought against in the first place.

What needs to be understood is that even if every one of these armed civilians are honorable men and women, the corporations that hire them are not. Honor in any form is not critical to the corporate structure. Their only consideration is money, and the power necessary to ensure capital flow.

The irony of constructing an army of corporate warriors is that, as they fail to do what the highly trained militias are unable to do, they will provide an excuse for the Bushies to bail them out. The circularity of this farce is an insult to every soldier who put their life on the line, supposedly in defense of our nation, and who will now be asked to defend the defenders of corporations.

And this is not some far-off nightmare. As reported by Steve Fainaru in *The Washington Post* (June 16, 2007), private security companies in Iraq are “fighting insurgents on a widening scale” and “taking hundreds of casualties...that are underreported.” There are more than 100 of these private militias and they operate outside of Iraqi and international law. Our government has allocated \$1.5 billion to fund these operations this year alone.

But crucial to this entire fiasco is that it is couched within a framework describing the actions in Iraq as “fighting insurgents.” Ladies and gentlemen on the right and on the left, these “insurgents” are fighting these private militias the same way we would were they to patrol our streets! The sight of them patrolling in New Orleans should’ve been enough to curdle any patriot’s blood. We must begin thinking about their conduct when they return to our shores.

Did you vote for this?

*Larry Hourany, PhD, a local activist, resides in McKinleyville.*



# Surviving War, Slowly Dying at Home

by Aaron Glantz

LOS ANGELES—The U.S. Vets Westside Residence Hall is a hulking eight-story structure a few blocks from Los Angeles International Airport. It's the largest transitional housing and employment center for homeless veterans in the country, hosting 700 veterans annually.



Michael Hall is one of its residents. The 31-year-old Army staff sergeant enlisted shortly after high school and served as a heavy equipment mechanic and technical weapons specialist in Bosnia, Cuba, Kuwait and Afghanistan before being severely injured in Iraq in 2003.

"I was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade," Hall told IPS as he limped into a recreation room on the building's ground floor. "I suffer from compression of the spine. I used to be six foot four. Now I'm six two and a half."

"I got knocked through a wall," he added, almost as an afterthought.

The federal government's Veterans Administration considers Hall to be 100 percent disabled. He has difficulty walking, dragging his feet with each step he takes. He also suffers from mental problems — bipolar disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder — conditions he didn't have before he went to Iraq.

Hall said his problems really started when he got back to the United States and started using methamphetamines to dull the pain.

"I knew a lot of people who were killed in Iraq," he said, "so the pain of losing loved ones on the battlefield, the pain of not being there for my children, of not knowing how to live in this civilian society after so many years in the military — I stuffed these things down deep inside because I considered myself a hard-core guy. But after the effects of the methamphetamine went away, I still felt the same. No matter how much I could do or how much I could smoke the results were the same. It was the insanity of it all."

Hall has four children, ages seven, four, two, and one. But his behavior since being released from the military has kept him away from them. In addition to using drugs, he started dealing as well. Since leaving the military in 2003, he has served time in federal prison in Oklahoma for felony home invasion and has had

numerous other run-ins with the law. Within three years, he hit rock bottom — one of 27,000 homeless vets on the streets of Los Angeles.

Dwight Radcliff is chief operating officer of U.S. Vets, a public-private partnership founded in 1993 to serve homeless veterans. He told IPS his organization is increasingly coming into contact with relatively young homeless veterans involved in custody disputes over their children.

"It's a sign of the times," he said. "It's a lot freer now than even in the 1970s. So it's not surprising to see a veteran who is 23 years old who has children, who cannot get along with the custodial parent who needs support and help to navigate that system."

Radcliff added that the presence of those children can also be a motivator to get the veteran off the streets and clean from drugs. For example, U.S. Vets helped former Staff Sergeant Michael Hall win custody of his children after he got off methamphetamine. The children are currently living with Hall's parents until he finds a permanent place to live.

"These are guys who are pretty much going straight from deployment to the streets," added Rachel Feldstein, associate director of New Directions, a residential care center for homeless veterans inside the VA complex in West Los Angeles. She says veterans of the Iraq war are becoming homeless much more quickly than Vietnam vets.

While about half of the estimated 400,000 homeless veterans served during the Vietnam years, Feldstein said most did not usually become homeless until nine to 12 years after their discharge.

Already, she said, Iraq war vets are living on the streets of Los Angeles, getting seriously addicted to drugs and falling into criminal behavior, she said.

Firm estimates of the number of homeless Iraq war veterans are hard to come by. In June 2005, the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans reported the number of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) veterans seeking assistance from community-based homeless services providers had exceeded 400.

The group Veterans for America, formerly the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, estimates that 10,000 veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are now living on the street.

Sixteen Iraq war veterans have entered residential drug rehab at New Directions over the last four years. Most have been referred to the program as an alternative sentence after being convicted of a crime.

"What's unique about the men and women coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan is that they're not able to integrate with their family," Feldstein said. "They've seen horrible things. They've been in horrible places and their family can't relate. And so you become homeless in the last place you lived."

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# On Track: The Brian Willson Story



PHOTO: JOCK McDONALD

Brian Willson dancing, 1988

## A new, Nevada Shakespeare Company original work in-progress

Based on the life and memoirs of VFP Chapter 56 member S. Brian Willson, the Nevada Shakespeare Company presents a new, original work, a multi-media performance with historic videos, photographs, and artifacts, with the World Premiere scheduled for Saturday, September 1 (evening), and Sunday, September 2 (afternoon), 2007, in the Carlo Theater at the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theater in Blue Lake. September 1, 2007 is the 20th anniversary of the assault that claimed Brian's legs. The audience will participate in a post-performance forum with Brian and the Cast.

ON TRACK is written by acclaimed playwright Jeanmarie Simpson who wrote and performed the powerful play, "A Single Woman", about the life of Jeanette Rankin (1880-1973), the first woman ever elected to Congress and the only Congressperson who voted against the U.S. entrance into both World War I and World War II. Understanding the true nature of war, Jeanette Rankin is noted for saying, "We can no more win a war than we can win an earthquake." Now a film, "A Single Woman" will soon be premiering at selected venues.

For more information visit:  
<http://nevada-shakespeare.org/ontrack.html>  
 ON TRACK reservations: 707-668-5663, x 20

## Stand Down '07 ...continued from page 1

general, veterans of all political persuasions enjoyed pleasant interactions with each other as they focused on the task at hand: taking care of their fellow veterans.

I would estimate that one third of the veterans who attended as houseless veterans came in from the bush; I know several did.

A veteran named Jeff told me that he really appreciated being able to get cleaned up and receive a haircut. He said it was the best thing that could have happened to him right now, as he had been feeling pretty low lately.

Another man, John, left behind by an acquaintance he made during stand down, said he would expect that to happen "anywhere else but here," and yet he said he will come again next year.

Frank, a 91-year-old American Indian WWII veteran, whom we provided with a wheelchair prior to Stand Down, was able to attend stand down and the sweat lodge. He enjoyed himself very much. The wheelchair will enable him to be more mobile at his home in Hoopa.

At around 3:00 pm on Sunday we were finally ready to go. Tom, our star volunteer Peaemaker, needed to come up with a place to stay. On our way back to Arcata, he came up with a contingency plan. I had offered the help of the transitional living program provided through the agency I work for, but Tom refused because he said he would have difficulty living with others, inside. He said he was pretty good at making his own way and I believe him. I will continue to monitor his progress and assist as I am allowed and able. Tom has had a very full, adventuresome life and wants to maintain that adventure. His story could fill a series of books.

We served at least 218 houseless veterans during Stand Down '07. Our intention has always been for this to be an annual event, with outreach and support services provided year round.

My impression is that a bunch of grubby folks who came through the gate at the beginning of the stand down left looking sharp, well dressed and well fed, and mentally presenting as being in a secure space. Yes, they left, and many went back to the same reality they had come from prior to the event, yet they left with an idea of where and how to receive follow-up services. We know that many do take advantage of those referrals and follow-up resources. We provided a weekend of respite from the war of houselessness and instilled hope and some sense of direction for veterans seeking a way out of their current condition.

In honor of those still on patrol and the Brotherhood of the Phin, I gave my heart, soul, talents, and of course some blood, to everyone at Stand Down '07. It has been great working with you all and I have profited greatly from our journey together. So long for now, and Happy Trails to you all.

Peace and love,  
 Marc

## Surviving War, Slowly Dying ...from page 6

Activists concerned about increases in the number of homeless veterans argue for greater federal investment in affordable housing and social services. Of particular concern is the wait for mental health care, which can run as long as six months.

A recent study by Harvard's Kennedy School of Government found that by the time the Iraq and Afghanistan wars end, there will be at least two and a half million vets. Because of that, the Harvard study concluded, Congress will have to double the VA's budget simply to avoid cutting services.

*This article was published on Wednesday, June 13, 2007 by Inter Press Service, and also posted on CommonDreams.org. Submitted by Becky Luening.*





**Veterans For Peace  
Humboldt Bay  
Chapter 56**

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**LEADERSHIP TEAM**

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Judi Rose, 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 [turtldncer@aol.com](mailto:turtldncer@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.

## *The World Peace Diet*

**BOOK SIGNING & TALK BY AUTHOR WILL TUTTLE, PHD**  
([www.willtuttle.com](http://www.willtuttle.com))

*TWO VENUES - BOTH FREE TO THE PUBLIC:*

**Thurs., July 5th, 5:30-9pm**

ARCATA COMMUNITY CENTER  
SENIOR DINING ROOM

**Fri., July 6th, 2-6pm**

GARBERVILLE COMMUNITY PARK  
EVENTS BARN, SPROWEL CREEK RD.

**\*\*\* Community vegan (plant-based) POTLUCK at both events \*\*\***

*For further info. call 825-1198 (Arcata) or 986-9743 (Garberville)*



**Veterans For Peace Chapter 56**  
P.O. Box 532  
Bayside, CA 95524

### **Next VFP 56 Meeting**

**Thursday, July 5, 2007**

**7:00-9:00 pm**

**Marsh Commons  
101 H Street, Arcata**

**Info: 707-826-7124**