

MEETING REMINDER

VFP Chapter 56 meets Thursday, September 1, 2005 at the Marsh Commons, 101 H Street, Arcata.

DU/WMD Presentation

On September 1, prior to the beginning of our regular meeting, the DU/WMD Committee will be showing the DVD Eileen McGee produced concerning depleted uranium and weapons of mass destruction, featuring Peter, Laura and Richard.

The presentation will get underway at 6:00 PM and continue until 7:00. If the DVD has not concluded by 7:00 when the meeting starts, it will be stopped and continued at the end of the meeting at 9:00.

Many thanks to Eileen McGee for expending time, money and energy on this project. She and the numerous DVDs she has directed and produced have been invaluable in promoting VFP, WILPF and the CFP Ambassadors For Peace programs in a positive light.

Blake Lemoine: Resistor and Conscientious Objector

Blake Lemoine, age 23, was court-martialed in Darmstadt, Germany, on March 28, 2005, for disobeying orders. He received a bad conduct discharge and seven months prison.

Blake and his wife Alayna, 21, are Cajuns from a farming community in Louisiana, a region with a strong tradition of military service. For patriotic reasons, Blake volunteered for military service shortly after September 11, 2001, and was deployed to Germany. He served in Iraq for one year in 2003-2004 as a gunner accompanying mail trucks. He received the Army Commendation.

Blake's experiences in Iraq made him a strong opponent to the US war and occupation there. However, he was advised by military chaplains that he would have little chance of obtaining conscientious objector status because he is a selective objector. On January 10, 2005, Blake wrote a letter to his "Chain of Command" to announce his resistance campaign in protest to the war in Iraq:

"...Some might say that when I signed the Army contract, I agreed to kill for the United States. However, when I signed that contract, it was literally impossible for me to know the means with which our war was being waged. Now that I am aware of the hatred and wrath directed against the Arabic peoples, at least by the US soldiers, I can do nothing but withdraw my gun from service to the US military's causes. Also I must state that, unfortunately, I cannot give the Army any assistance in any way from this day forward..."

From January 10 on, he continued to go to work each day in the military supply room at the base in Darmstadt, Germany, but he refused to carry out any orders (such as to pick up the phone or the broom). On January 27, he began a hunger strike and closed down his bank account so that the Army could not pay him. He wrote another letter to the "Chain of Command":

"...There is only one class of people throughout history that was kept, by force, from quitting their jobs. This class is the slave class. I was unaware that when I signed the Army contract, I was signing myself into slavery...The Army wishes to maintain the charade that I am a contracted employee. This is a lie...I will no longer voluntarily receive any benefits from the US Army. This is to include, but not be limited to: pay, shelter and food. Let the chips fall where they may."

On March 24, 2005, four days prior to his military trial, Blake held a press conference in Darmstadt. He was supported by a coalition of US peace activists living abroad and German peace organizations. He spoke in much detail about his experiences in Iraq ("*...we are treating the Iraqis worse than animals...*"), and his statements received wide coverage internationally via the wire services and also three *Stars and Stripes* stories. (Check "Blake Lemoine" in Google.)

On March 28, Blake was incarcerated in the stockade in Mannheim, Germany. Over that Easter weekend, his statement of solidarity with the peace movements was read out at numerous regional German peace demonstrations. On April 10, German and American peace activists joined Blake's wife outside the base in Mannheim to demand his release. That night he was removed to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. There he has completed some college courses. He will be released early, for good behavior, on September 17, 2005. He will return to Louisiana to join his wife, who is working as a waitress there. The two plan to go to college in Louisiana this fall. Blake's case is being appealed.

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Blake Lemoine: Resistor and Conscientious Objector ...continued from page 1

PLEASE WRITE to Blake Lemoine, 1490 Randolph Road, Fort Sill, OK 73503.

PLEASE SUPPORT Blake Lemoine and other soldiers deployed overseas by sending a check to the "Just Say No" Fund at Global Exchange, 2017 Mission Street, Room 303, San Francisco, CA, 94110, Tel. 415-255-7296. (Your contribution will be tax deductible and used for legal and counseling costs and for distribution of objectors' rights info to US soldiers overseas.)

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT Elsa Rassbach, American Voices Abroad Military Project, Steifensandstrasse 6, 14057 Berlin, Germany; Tel. 01149 30 326 015 40; Email goava@tiscali.de

This article was submitted by Becky Luening and Brian Willson, who learned about Blake Lemoine through Elsa Rassbach, whom they met at the recent VFP convention in Dallas.

The so-called \$421 billion "defense" budget

At \$421.1 billion, the FY 2006 DOD budget is the largest in real terms since the end of the cold war in 1990. Add in the \$85 billion expected cost of combat in Iraq/Afghanistan—not to be confused with the \$82 billion the administration recently requested for the war in 2005 – it is the highest DOD budget since the Korean War.

But wait, there's the DOE's nuclear weapons programs and other defense costs that add another \$20.7 billion. Now you're at \$526.8 billion and the biggest national defense budget since WW II.

That huge sum, however, is not the total 2006 national security budget. Next add in \$40.4 billion for Homeland Security, another \$31.7



billion for foreign policy and international stability, and \$68.3 billion for covering the human consequences of current and other wars in the form of the Department of Veterans Affairs, inadequate as the latter may be.

The total of \$667.2 billion is the largest annual sum this country has ever paid for security in any war at any time. It's also more than ALL

THE OTHER NATIONS on the face of the Earth, put together, pay for their own security.

Unbelievably, the amount is thoroughly inadequate. A Congressional

Budget Office study shows a \$250 billion shortage in the Pentagon's 2005–2009 plan. Some call this "under-funding," others call it "over-programming."

The Pentagon knows that any cuts proposed in the shortfall will never happen due to opposition from its bureaucrats in uniform and pork-crazed members of Congress, neither of whom the head of DOD will seriously resist.

Further, Rumsfeld's requests for war funding come in the form of supplemental budgets that are routinely late, which helps to wring compliance out of Congress, and inadequate, which means more supplemental budgets to come, and dubbed 'emergency,' which means it won't count under budget rules regarding spending ceilings.

Finally, Rumsfeld often plugs in items that ought to be included in the regular DOD budget which helps maintain the image of an annual plan growing only modestly. It's quite a mess.

SOURCE: *The Defense Monitor*, Vol. XXXIV, No.2. Submitted by Fred Hummel USNR, WWII.



A basket full of turtle hatchlings released by Jim and Linda Sorter in mid-August.



Boyhood Wish: Kill enemy soldiers

by Chris Christensen

In our small town of Columbus, Texas (pop. 3,900), we buried one of our local sons on his 19th birthday. He was killed in action in Iraq on June 20. He was a friend of my two oldest sons, and his father was a friend of mine.

There is not a lot for a young man to do in our town, and most leave for college or a job. Christopher came to see me at his father's request prior to enlisting last summer. I am an Air Force vet who served in Southeast Asia. I talked blue in the face to try to get Christopher to go with me to an Air Force or Navy recruiter. In fact, I told him in no uncertain terms that the Army would put a gun in his hands and send him out to be a target. He wouldn't listen.

His head was already filled with a lot of crud from the recruiter about being a scout, riding a four-wheeler ATV around—big fun! (Christopher was an Eagle Scout.) He had an acquaintance who had been doing that (not in Iraq), and I got the sense that this acquaintance was giving him the hard sell, too. I wonder if the Army has a referral bonus system.

Christopher also had this inexplicable desire to “go shoot some ‘Raqis.” Maybe some latent desire from too much video gaming. I heard that in the weeks before his death, he was involved in a brief firefight and froze in terror. No doubt reality caught up to him at the speed of a 7.62-caliber bullet. Too bad his recruiter or buddy had not told him about the fear he would experience when he realized someone wanted to really hurt him or kill him.

When I learned of Christopher's death, I was sitting, using a computer in a hotel lounge in Manhattan. (I'm an airline pilot and was on a layover in New York.) I broke down and cried. There were lots of others around and I'm sure they were wondering ... but none asked.

I found I was crying not so much for the senseless loss of a young life, or even the grief our friends would bear. As I thought about it, I was crying for our country. What have we come to?

This is my sadness. Our children are being weaned on hatred and violence in this country. It starts with television, gets reinforced and is refined with violent video games (one is produced and distributed by the U.S. Army), and finally the infection spreads through violent team sports in high school. Football in the South is the battlefield training ground for the next generation of cannon fodder. Kids are told to go out there and “hurt ‘em, tear ‘em up, kill ‘em.” It is ingrained.

(Careful now, don't get me confused with the liberal left. I own guns and support conservatives. There is a huge difference between defense of home and property and exporting violence to other countries.)

Christopher didn't know it, but as a small-town Southerner he was being trained for his death since early childhood.

Our little town votes mostly Democrat in local elections, but typically votes Republican in presidential races. Discussion or debate about policy in public is seldom heard and somewhat discouraged. What a shame. Most people around here take a passing interest in national or foreign policy for a week or two prior to an election, then just turn back to football, or whatever is covered on the sports page that day.

The notion of death or dismemberment at the hands of an enemy is so foreign as to be incomprehensible to most American youth. Our media does such a precise job of keeping images and details of such things out of the public eye. Not so for many foreign presses. Our schools would never consider

teaching children about anything so morbid or unpleasant.

The thought that a boy like Christopher would so lightheartedly desire to kill some people he knew nothing about is very distressing to me. On the one hand, Christopher was a pretty gentle and easygoing kid. If someone said to him, “Hey let's go shoot some kids from Sealy,” a rival school, he would obviously have said, “You're crazy—get lost!” But ‘Raqis, why it's open season.

He only saw the differences. He had somehow developed enough hatred to override his sense of right and wrong, and all teaching of love of fellow man. He went to the Southern Baptist Church, and I know it was taught to him. On the other hand, the president of the Southern Baptist convention declared this a “just war.” A little hypocrisy there and probably confusing for Christopher. We left that church, by the way.

A few men and women who knew Christopher had been supporting the occupation but are beginning to change their minds. His death is the second our rural county has experienced in the past few months. It is beginning to change some attitudes here—but too late, I'm afraid.

I hope that we learn sooner than we did in Vietnam that we can't successfully force our ideals on another society unwilling to adopt them or defend them for themselves.

There just aren't enough Christophers to go around.

Chris Christensen is an Air Force veteran who lives in Columbus, Texas. This piece was published in the Insight section (p. C1) of the Sunday, Aug. 14, 2005 San Francisco Chronicle. Chris Christensen granted permission to reprint it here. Submitted by Becky Luening.



Published on Thursday, August 11, 2005 by CommonDreams.org

Veterans For Peace: Celebrating 20 Years of Reconciliation and Resistance

by Susan Van Haitsma

Returning home from the national Veterans For Peace (VFP) convention held August 4-7 in Dallas, Texas, I opened my daily paper to an opinion editorial entitled, “‘Thank God for the Atom Bomb;’ it saved thousands of lives.” I thought of a contrasting statement made during the convention by GI resister and conscientious objector, Camilo Mejia. “Conscience is a place where one meets God. Conscience is what makes us human, more than intelligence.”

The meeting place of conscience is what really saves us. In fact, during the convention, I heard more than one veteran say it: Thank God for Veterans For Peace. You saved my life.

Celebrating its twentieth anniversary at this convention, VFP has been growing by leaps and bounds in recent years. Membership has increased from about 550 in 2001 to some 4,000 today, with 123 chapters across the country. Members of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) also celebrated their very busy first year of activity.

The convention marked the first as Executive Director for Michael McPhearson, an Army veteran whose 20-year-old son is scheduled to be deployed to Iraq this year. McPhearson’s opening address to the convention began, “First, thank you for existing.”

During the convention, placards declaring the five points of VFP’s

statement of purpose followed the assembly, appearing prominently during the business sessions, then migrating to the big tent stage as backdrop for the speeches and entertainment. When these vets get together, they have a very good time. But they meet primarily because they have a mission.

We must work to increase public awareness of the costs of war

Brad Johnson, VFP Chapter 80, draws from his 20-year Navy career when he talks with students in Duluth, Minnesota. He visits high schools with his “War is Not the Answer” banner. When students ask what the answer is, he doesn’t hesitate. “I ask them how many windmills they see around here and how they are doing in their science class-

es.” Straightforward, funny, and wearing one hoop earring, Johnson must be capturing the students’ imagination with his anti-war message. He clearly appreciates the opportunity. “I’m buying back my soul,” he says, “one classroom at a time.”

Like Brad Johnson, Vietnam Air Force veteran Brian Willson and his partner, Becky Luening also believe it is crucial to explore the “whys” of war. Willson and Luening took the train to Dallas from their home in Northern California because trains make the most efficient use of fuel per passenger. Willson said they decided to attend the convention because when he saw the preliminary schedule, there was no workshop addressing the structural and root causes of war. He offered to facilitate one. “Our system requires war,” he says. “Do we want to be anti-war, or do we want to get rid of war?”

Willson is well-known as the attorney and activist whose legs were severed on September 1, 1987 by a Naval munitions train carrying weapons bound for Central America as he and others protested on the tracks. Willson walks skillfully with two prostheses. He and Luening live close to the land, growing much of their food and conducting their business locally. Willson no longer uses air travel and declines most speaking engagements. “When I am invited to speak, I ask, ‘Can I get there without harming the earth?’”

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We must restrain our government from Intervening in the affairs of others

During the convention's opening plenary, Iraq Veterans Against the War co-founder, Mike Hoffman took the stage along with seven other IVAW members. They spoke of their appreciation for older vets, especially Vietnam Veterans Against the War, who helped them learn to organize in the midst of war. Marine veteran, Stephen Funk, the first conscientious objector to serve time in a military prison during the Iraq war, said that one of the first groups to reach out to him when he became a GI resister was VFP. He said he knew he didn't have to be suspicious of the group's motives.

IVAW member Charlie Anderson said, "I am a veteran of Operation Iraqi Plunder. To call it Operation Iraqi Freedom is an insult to Iraq and an insult to humanity." He described symptoms of PTSD he is experiencing: fits of rage, sleepless nights, tearful outbursts. Another IVAW member said, "When people tell me they are proud of what I did in Iraq, I say, 'Well, I'm not. You don't even know what I did over there.'"

Hoffman and other IVAW members have been criss-crossing the country over the past year, appearing at schools and public demonstrations. They speak from experience, challenging what vets call "a culture of silence" in the military. To a standing ovation at the convention, Hoffman said, "Bush hides behind the troops when he is criticized. He claims that critics don't support the troops. Troops are his shield. Well, IVAW will be the shield of the peace movement!"

We must seek justice for veterans and victims of war

A banner created by the Santa Fe VFP chapter read, "Who will support the troops when our troops become veterans?" The banner included eight photographs from the book, *Purple Hearts*, of veterans who have lost limbs or suffered other injuries in Iraq.

One of the resolutions considered during the day-long business session of the convention was a proposal to revise the VFP statement of purpose to read, "We must seek justice for veterans and *other* victims of war," in order to make the point that veterans are war victims also. However, the VFP board and convention voted to keep the statement as is. "Veterans are victims and also executioners," said David Cline, board president, reflecting the group sentiment that VFP members take responsibility for their actions in war. One vet commented, "Veterans are in both worlds, and in fact, so are most people."

The VFP convention commemorated the 30th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, or as it is known in Vietnam, the American War. Many Vietnam veterans have traveled to Vietnam since the war to participate in projects that promote reconciliation and restoration. VFP member Suel Jones spoke about his involvement with the Vietnam Friendship Village, a community for children and adults affected by Agent Orange. Jones described his amazement that the Vietnamese people welcomed him even when they knew he had killed Vietnamese people during the war. "Veterans who go back to Vietnam with me always ask two things," he said. "What the hell were we doing?" and "Why didn't I come

back sooner?"

Justice for GI resisters was a major focus of the convention. Workshop panelists, plenary speakers and late-night documentary films explored GI resistance during the Vietnam War and Gulf Wars I and II. Vietnam GI resister Steve Morse was on hand to talk about the huge increase in calls to the GI Rights Hotline, which he coordinates through the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors. Lee Zaslofsky, a US Army deserter and Canadian resident since 1970, spoke about his current role as coordinator of the War Resisters Support Campaign, which is lobbying for political asylum and providing practical assistance for 15 US military deserters in Canada. An estimated 5,500 soldiers are in deserter status in the US. Whether soldiers of conscience go to prison, as have Camilo Mejia and Stephen Funk, or seek refuge in Canada, as have Brandon Hughey and Jeremy Hinzman, or just go AWOL, VFP supports them.

We must end the arms race and reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons

Anita Cole enlisted in the Army because she believed the military was "a meaningful and shared public effort." She felt there weren't enough outlets for such efforts outside the military. While she was stationed in Japan, she visited Hiroshima. She began to realize that the shared public effort she'd joined "was the most destructive system in the world." Her belief system "crystallized," as military regulations call it, and she was discharged as a conscientious objector in 2002. An articulate spokesperson for the rights of conscience, she

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Veterans For Peace: Celebrating 20 Years

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now serves on the board of the Center on Conscience and War and answers calls for the GI Rights Hotline.

The convergence of anniversaries during the 2005 VFP convention included the 60th year of remembrance of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. Attending the convention from Japan was special guest, Dr. Satoru Konishi, a survivor of the Hiroshima bombing. Dr. Konishi addressed the convention in halting English, describing his memory of the bombing and subsequent campaign for a nuclear-free world. He closed by reading a poem by Japanese poet, Sankichi Toge, who died from radiation poisoning several years after the bombing. Reciting the poem, Dr. Konishi's voice suddenly gained strength:

*"Our fathers, give back to me,
Our mothers, give back to me,
Our elders, give back to me,
Our children, give back to me!
My self, human, give back to me.
And all humans linked to me!
Peace, give back to me,
One, indestructible forever,
As long as the
human's human
world will last."*



When another special convention guest, Cindy Sheehan, finished her already legendary address to a very enthusiastic standing ovation, Dr. Konishi spontaneously gave her the first hug from the front row as she stepped from the stage.

Democracy Comes from Within

by Rob Hepburn

Democracy comes from within the spirit of a people; it is the urge to be free.

In our own American Revolution, we rose up against our oppressor because our urge for freedom was stronger than our fear of retribution. Although France helped us economically and militarily; it did not occupy our country and bomb us to set us free.

More recently; it was the people of the then "Soviet Union," that rose up non-violently and toppled their oppressive government. No outside country invaded their lands and bombed them into freedom. The great struggle for freedom in India against the "British Empire" was waged nonviolently by the people of India. It was not imposed on them by another country.

In Africa, Asia, and South America the struggle for freedom from European colonialism was waged by "the people" who were oppressed by it.

In every case the struggle for freedom and democracy was inspired by the "example" of freedom and democracy somewhere else.

Rather than bringing freedom and democracy to a "people"; military occupation of one country by another has precipitated world conflict. World War II in which 55 million people died worldwide began with the Nazi occupation of Poland.

Freedom is spread by example, not occupation. I believe the real aim of our present US government in its foreign policy, and the war in Iraq is not freedom; but instead "license"; the license for US-based "Corporate Capitalism" to economically dominate the world.

The people of the world will continue to resist this domination, in any way they can.

We must abolish war as an instrument of national policy

The human life we have taken and keep taking in war cannot be brought back. But the human connections we make now could be our saving grace. The camaraderie—the love for each other—is what most veterans, including Casey Sheehan, have paradoxically cited as the main reason for following orders into war. VFP understands the significance of camaraderie because the same kind of bonding is necessary for waging

peace. VFP members and chapters across the country are involved in powerful, creative efforts to strengthen human connections. In the process, they create the kinds of meeting places where lives are saved.

Susan Van Haitsma is active with Nonmilitary Options for Youth <<http://www.progressiveaustin.org/nmofy/drupal/>> and is an associate member of VFP Chapter 66 in Austin, Texas. Article submitted by Brian Willson.



Cindy Sheehan Speaks Her Mind

On Friday, August 5, 2005, Gold Star mother Cindy Sheehan addressed the VFP convention in Dallas; since August 6 she has been camped outside Bush's ranch in Crawford Texas waiting to speak to him. Just five months previous, Chapter 56 hosted a talk by Cindy at the Wharfinger in Eureka. It's exciting to know that VFP plays a part in what has become become the biggest peace rally of the year. Following are some excerpts from Cindy Sheehan's address at the convention:

"...I can tell you the exact day I heard about VFP, it was May 4, 2004, and my son had been dead exactly a month, and I was watching CNN, and something came on: it was a report on Arlington West in Santa Barbara, and we lived about six hours north of Santa Barbara. And it was the May 4 before Mother's Day, which was May 8, and VFP was going to put it up on Sunday, every Sunday. So I called my husband and I said, "There's only one place I want to be on Mother's Day this year. I want to be in Santa Barbara. I want to see Arlington West.

"When we went, the first time we went, there was a little over 700 crosses; now there's over 1,800 crosses."

"[W]e have this lying bastard, George Bush, taking a five-week vacation in a time of war. You know what? I'm never going to get to enjoy another vacation because of him...This is really sad because I have a really cute dress I was going to wear to the banquet tomorrow night, but I'm either gonna be in jail or in a tent in Crawford, waiting until that jerk comes out and tells me why my son died."

"So, as many of you have heard, and I didn't mean to cause any problems with the convention, but...I just had this brainstorm. I'm going to Dallas; I don't know where Crawford is. I've been in Texas; Casey was stationed at Fort Hood. I drove from Northern California to Fort Hood one time. It took like 30 hours. And I thought, I could be driving for days to get from Dallas to Crawford! But I don't care, I'm goin'! And I'm gonna tell them, 'You get that evil maniac out here, cuz a Gold Star Mother, somebody whose blood is on his hands, has some questions for him.'

"And I'm gonna say, 'You tell me what the noble cause is that my son died for.' And if he even starts to say 'freedom and democracy,' I'm gonna say, 'Bullshit! You tell me the truth. You tell me that my son died for oil. You tell me that my son died to make your friends rich. You



PHOTO BY DON MADDOX

VFP Ch. 56 members Fred Hummel, Kathie Kelly, and Mark Dubrow vigiled with almost 200 others to show solidarity for Cindy Sheehan on Wednesday evening, August 17, at the Arcata Plaza. A vigil was also held at the courthouse in Eureka.

tell me my son died to spread the cancer of Pax Americana, imperialism in the Middle East. You tell me that. You don't tell me my son died for freedom and democracy'...We're not freer. You're taking away our freedoms. The Iraqi people aren't freer. They're much worse off than before you meddled in their country."

"Another thing that I'm doing is—my son was killed in 2004, so I'm not paying my taxes for 2004. If I get a letter from the IRS, I'm gonna say, 'You know what? This war is illegal; this is why this war is illegal. This war is immoral; this is why this war is immoral. You killed my son for this. I don't owe you anything. And if I live to be a million, I won't owe you a penny.

"And I want them to come after me, because unlike what you've been doing with the war resistance, I want to put this frickin' war on trial. And I want to say, 'You give me my son, and I'll pay your taxes.'

"It's up to us, the people, to break immoral laws, and resist. As soon as the leaders of a country lie to you, they have no authority over you. These maniacs have no authority over us. And they might be able to put our bodies in prison, but they can't put our spirits in prison."

"The opposite of good is not evil, it's apathy. And we have to get this country off their butts, and we have to get the choir singing. We need to say, 'Bring our troops home now!' We can't depend on the people in charge bringing our troops home, because you don't plan on bringing the troops home when you drop so much of the reconstruction money into building permanent bases.

"I was hoping to come to the banquet tomorrow night, but unless George comes out and talks to me, I'll be camping at Crawford."





Veterans For Peace Chapter 56

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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 turtldncr@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.

VFP Members on TV

Media coverage of Cindy Sheehan, shows her wearing her VFP cap with VFP Chapter 116 President Patrick Tate shown in the background with his VFP shirt prominently displayed. Seen on CNN at 11:30 am PST.

Cindy and the Gold Star Families for Peace, with VFP support, continues camp-

ing out in front of President Bush's ranch in Crawford Texas.

This coverage can only be good for VFP and related anti-war organizations. Let's hope the coverage will net increased membership and support.

Email sent 8/7/05 by Fredy and Sherry Champagne, Garberville Chapter 22

"The awful danger of war is not so much that force is used when reason has broken down, but that reason unconsciously inhibits itself beforehand (in all the trivialities of political and military gamesmanship) in order that that it may break down, and in order that resort to force may become 'inevitable.'" —THOMAS MERTON



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