

Reality Websites:

www.ivaw.net - Iraq Vets Against the War.

www.mfso.org - Military Families speak out.

www.gsfp.org - Gold Star Families for Peace

www.veteransforpeace.org

www.afsc.org - American Friends Service Committee

See <http://icasualties.org/oif/Statecity.aspx> for a listing by state and city of our youth who gave their lives. Youth from Bay Point, San Ramon, Concord, Antioch and other local areas have died and many more have been seriously injured for life.

This flyer is produced by the “Youth and the Military Committee” of the Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center 925.933.7850 www.mtdpc.org We need and welcome your support! Call us to find out about our meetings and activities. We especially want to communicate with students in high schools where military recruiters are active. We believe it essential for youth to hear full information.



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Cover: Photo of soldier dubbed ‘Marlboro Man’ in Fallujah, Iraq. Blake Miller has returned home to Kentucky where he is battling PTSD including nightmares. Long-time friends tell of a significant personality change. The former Marine is now critical of US tactics and the invasion of Iraq.

DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS WHO ARE THINKING OF ENLISTING?



See back of flyer for what happened to this young American

ADVISE THEM TO THINK TWICE!

HELP YOUR FRIEND OR RELATIVE FACE REALITY.

Common Questions:

1. *Will the military pay for college education?*

Answer: 57% of soldiers who sign up for Montgomery GI Bill never see a penny. An average Federal Pell grant (\$2,500) is larger than the average veteran payment for college (\$2,151). You need at least three years active service and an honorable discharge to qualify. If you apply for other grants or assistance, your GI Bill will count as an asset and will REDUCE your aid package.

2. *Can you count on promises of the military recruiter?*

Answer: Verbal promises from a military recruiter mean nothing. Some recruiters lie in order to meet their quota. Even the WRITTEN CONTRACT can be changed and your service extended for years if conditions change. The enlistment contract states, "Laws and regulations that govern military personnel may change without notice to me."

3. *Will the military be good for you, physically or mentally?*

Answer: Figure the odds. There are about 150,000 soldiers in Iraq. So far over 2,250 have been killed and over 16,000 seriously injured (lost limbs, lost eyesight, loss of hearing, etc.). According to Congressman Jack Murtha, a former Marine Colonel and staunch advocate for the military,

"50,000 will suffer what I call battle fatigue". Hospital and follow-up studies of returning veterans indicate that one in six soldiers shows signs of depression, severe anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. There have been many suicides.

4. *Is the military a good way to serve the country and your community?*

Answer: Many people believe the invasion and occupation of Iraq has made us less safe not more. Bush and Congress said Iraq was a danger to us but that is not supported by the facts. There were no WMD. Iraq was not involved in 9-11. By attacking and invading a small and weak country we are acting like bad guys, not good. A recent poll taken in Iraq shows the large majority of Iraqi people want the US to leave now but also believe the US will not do so. Overall 47% of Iraqi civilians (88% of Sunni) APPROVE of violent attacks against US-led troops.

5. *Are there other options?*

Answer: Yes! There are other options for getting a college education, exciting life and serving your country! Check out 'Global Exchange'. Consider training to be an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician). Check out the Peace Corps and Study-Abroad programs. Teach English in another country. There are other opportunities to grow, learn or see the world. If you are in a bad situation and the military is an attractive escape think about the longer term consequences. There may be other ways to change and improve your environment.

We wish you all the best: a fulfilling future without harm to yourself or others.