



The Center on
Conscience & War

The Reporter for Conscience' Sake

Volume 60

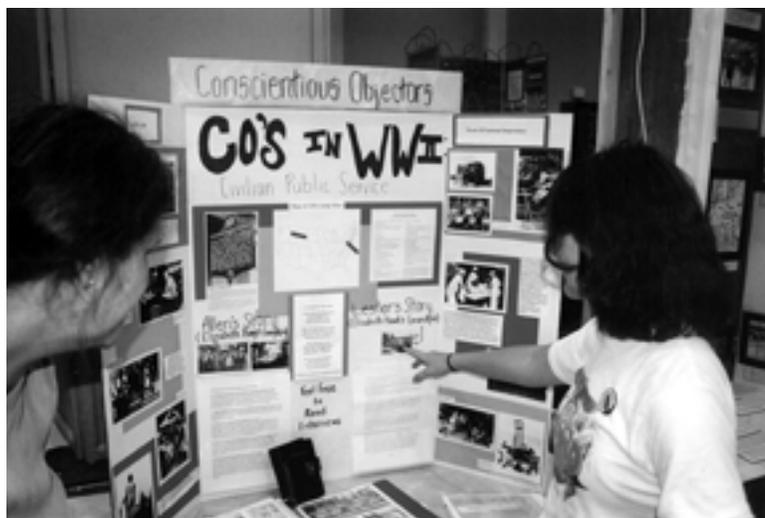
Summer 2003

Number 2

COs Contribute to National History Day Event

By Tim Showalter

The beginning of June marks the end of the school year for most junior high and high schools around the country. Certain ambitious teens, though, wanted to tackle more than the required exams and psychologically deteriorating clean-up periods, so often prevalent in those last few days. These students busied themselves researching, interviewing, and preparing history projects for local, state, and national competitions culminating in the 24th annual contest of National History Day (NHD).



Elizabeth Hawk, Harrisonburg, VA, shows her project to CCW's Director, JE McNeil, at the National History Day display in MD.

Human rights was a common category of research among the multitudes of projects set up in Stamp Student Union of the University of Maryland, College Park. The theme, "Rights and Responsibilities in History," gave students an opportunity to explore such historical events as the Kent State shooting, the Watergate scandal, and many untold stories from United States history, including that of conscientious objectors. Conscientious objectors (COs) made a dynamic impact on the history of America through the legal recognition of COs in WWI, the institution of alternative service during WWII, the reformation of America's mental institutions during the same era, and the continuing fight for the rights of COs that has taken us through the Korean, Vietnam, and almost two Gulf Wars. It's encouraging to know that the struggle has not been forgotten. It has been recorded in books, documentaries, news articles, and, most recently, in National History Day projects, researched and documented by America's youngest historians.

CALL FOR THE DRAFT LOOMING

By Theo Sither

On 21 July 2003, Thom Shanker of *The New York Times* reported, "the strains on American ground forces as the Bush administration extends their global missions are prompting new debates on Capitol Hill and within the Pentagon over the question of whether the military needs more troops worldwide." Though the United States has the world's most sophisticated military, American forces in Iraq and elsewhere have to carry the heavy burden of U.S. foreign policy.

President Bush announced on 1 May 2003, "major combat operations in Iraq have ended." Theoretically, this marked the end of the official war, and on that day coalition forces switched from being an invading force to an

(cont. on page 5 as *Looming Draft*)

Individually, or in groups, students used pictures, old publications, COs' diaries, and interviews with alternative service veterans and relatives of COs to uncover and present the stories of conscientious objectors in the US.

"We knew that [conscientious objection to war] was our parents' struggle," said Kelly Hansen, 17, of Fairbanks, Alaska. She went on to say that another reason that she and her co-presenter, Erika Burr, had chosen conscientious objection as their NHD project was so that they could educate themselves, so that they would "be able to help [their] friends."

Interestingly, one group chose the project because they couldn't decide on another topic, so they randomly picked COs from suggestions given by NHD.

Elizabeth Hawk, 15, of Harrisonburg, Virginia, said that she and her co-presenter, Elizabeth Barge, wanted to "compare the present situation" (cont. on page 4 as *COs at NHD*)

Also Inside:

News Briefs.....	2
Center News.....	3
Recruiter Truths.....	4
Stopping War.....	6
War in Korea?.....	7
CO Memories.....	7



Jim Feldman, Sec.
At-Large

Janet Horman
United Methodist Church

Phil Jones
Church of the Brethren

Shannon McManimon
Pax Christi

David Miller
Mennonite Central Committee

Mary Miller, Treas.
Episcopal Church

Jonathan K. Ogle, Chair
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Ibrahim Abdil-Mu-id Ramey
Fellowship of Reconciliation

Irving Ruderman
Jewish Peace Fellowship

Daniel Seeger
At-Large

Staff

J.E. McNeil
Executive Director

Bill Galvin
Counseling Coordinator

Jenny Flament
Program Assistant

Tim Showalter
BVS Volunteer

Theo Sittler
MCC Volunteer

James Reichard
Program Assistant

Fiona Korwin-Pawlowski
Program Assistant

The Reporter for Conscience's Sake is a publication of the Center on Conscience & War.

1830 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
Tel: 202-483-2220
Fax: 202-483-1246
Email: nisbco@nisbco.org
URL: <http://www.nisbco.org>

News Briefs

Protestors gathered in one mind, but in many different places on 6 and 9 August 2003 to say "We remember **Hiroshima**. We remember **Nagasaki**. Never again." Activists marked the anniversary of the 1945 bombings by gathering to rally, march, sing, and remember. Protesters traced shadows with sidewalk chalk at the Pentagon, questioned the christening of an Arleigh Burke class destroyer at Bath Iron Works, issued a statement from Ft. Dix, conducted a **citizens' inspection** of a Navy project in Clam Lake, Wisconsin, held a die-in at a Trident base in Faslane, Scotland, and blocked the entrance to a Trident base in Bangor, Washington. When the days of protest came to an end, 26 people had been arrested and 12 had been issued citations for trespassing.

The Washington Post ran an article at the beginning of August about soldiers' public criticism of the military. On 16 July, unnamed soldiers expressed their frustrations on ABC's "**Good Morning America**", as plans to bring them home continued to be "delayed." One said, "If Donald Rumsfeld were here, I'd ask him for his resignation." The soldiers were not disciplined, but were given "good talk[s]" by their command. One officer explained the "good talks" as a measure to "reinforce their obligations as soldiers to respect their military and civilian chain of command." Another officer noted that soldiers are forbidden to make "**disparaging**" remarks about the defense secretary or the president.

Families of soldiers and army veterans have generated a movement for the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq. The movement, called **Bring Them Home Now**, has grown to include mothers whose sons are serving in Iraq, people who supported the war but are now disillusioned, and long-time peace activists who all say that the troops are demoralized. The group kicked off their campaign with a press conference held on 13 August, which was covered by, at least, *C-Span* and the *BBC*. **Bring Them Home Now** was inspired by George W. Bush's "**inane and reckless** challenge to armed Iraqis resisting occupation to 'Bring 'em on.'"

On 15 August 2003, the Peace Makers Action Group of the First Unitarian Church, San Jose and the South Bay Mobilization (Veterans for Peace) of San Jose hosted a "**Military Justice Night**" in San Jose, California. The collaboration was an effort to rally moral and financial (money raised went to Funk's legal fund) support for Stephen Funk during his extensive court-martial process. Funk is scheduled to appear in front of a military tribunal, in New Orleans, on 4 September 2003. Marine Lance Corporal Stephen Funk was charged with **desertion** on 1 April, when he returned to his base, after leaving without permission to complete his Conscientious Objector application. If convicted, he could face time in a military prison.

Through a spiraling chain of events Greek conscientious objector Lazaros Petromelides was arrested, sentenced to **4 years in prison**, released on bail, sentenced to 20 months in prison, which was then suspended, and is now facing trial again for the same "offense." After originally being called to military duty, Petromelides refused to serve "substitute service" because of its punitive length. He was being required to serve 30 months of substitute service instead of 4 months of military service. Shortly after his latest release, on bail, he was arrested again for insubordination. On 18 September 2003, he faces trial at the Navy Martial Court of Thessaloniki. **Amnesty International** "strongly condemns the decision of the Military Court of Appeal in Athens," which has been behind these decisions.

Voices in the Wilderness is being sued by the **US Justice Department** for taking medicine to the people of Iraq. Voices in the Wilderness is an unincorporated organization, which in the past seven years has organized over 65 delegations to Iraq. The delegations included teachers, social workers, artists, health care professionals, trades people, **veterans, and people of faith**. Voices in the Wilderness is asking 20,000 people, equivalent to the amount of money (in dollars) they are being sued for, to sign their letter asking Mr. Ashcroft to drop the lawsuit. You can add your name to the petition at:
www.petitiononline.com/usvvtw/petition.html

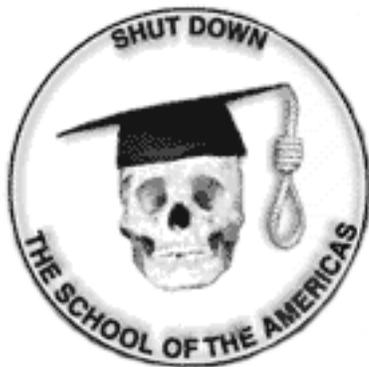
New Employee

As Tim Showalter will finish his BVS term in October, CCW has hired a part-time staff person, Fred Vellucci. Originally from Wappingers Falls, NY, Fred is enrolled in the masters programs at George Washington University. The program lasts two years and he intends to stay at the Center for at least one of those. He will be taking over the *Reporter* responsibilities as well as multiple other tasks.

Joining Forces with AFSC

The National Youth & Militarism Program of the American Friends Service Committee has for many years fostered the work of draft and military counseling as part of its core program. Recent reflections on the military's trends to garner the minds and souls of young people via the glorification of soldiering and the urgent need to raise awareness around work tied to counteracting the militarizing of public schools, motivates the National Youth & Militarism Program of the American Friends Service Committee to focus more specifically on counter recruitment work.

In order to optimize both expertise and resources, the National Youth & Militarism Program and the Center on Conscience & War will be working in close partnership on the issues of draft/CO and military counseling. The Center on Conscience & War will be the AFSC/National Youth & Militarism Program's primary referral source for all trainings, training inquires, and inquiries related to draft and military counseling. The Center on Conscience & War will in turn be referring individuals seeking counter recruitment work/issues training to the National Youth & Militarism Program. This partnership opportunity will give the National Youth & Militarism Program more ability to focus on counter recruitment work and enable it to maintain a relationship with the issues centered around conscientious objection and the draft.



SOA PROTEST/RALLY

Join thousands from across the Americas from 21-23 November 2003 at the gates of the U.S. military base in Fort Benning, Georgia - home of the notorious School of the Americas (renamed *Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation*) - to stand in solidarity with the victims of the School of the Americas and to speak out against terror and violence. For over a decade, student, religious, labor, veterans, human rights, and social/global justice groups

have been converging every November at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia to speak out in solidarity with the people of the Americas and to engage in nonviolent direct action. We will gather again this year and continue together in the struggle until the School of the Americas is closed and the policies it represents are changed forever. The events this year will be preceded by teach-ins (CCW has been asked to facilitate one on military counseling), trainings, and caucuses on Friday, November 21. www.soaw.org

The GI Rights Hotline: Duty of Conscience

In mid-June we received an e-mail from a friend we'd been working with for a while. We've printed, with permission from Mark, part of his correspondence to present the GI hotline in a more personal light. The reality is, with your support and our willing volunteers, the Center takes calls and assists people like Mark everyday. Here are some of his thoughts.

"I just wanted to let you know that I got out of the Coast Guard on June 6th and I have since returned home to my hometown... and started my new job today with an electric company, and once again I am a free man and no longer subject to the scrutiny and immorality of the military machine. I am so happy to be out of there...I would like you to know that I am very thankful to the Center on Conscience & War and the GI Rights Hotline for giving me the information I needed to get the early discharge that I had been hoping for since the day I joined in 2000. And even though it came after 2 years and 9 months (because I never knew my rights and other things until I saw the GI Rights website back in February 2003), it still is much better than having to endure 4 years of needless hardships and disdain ...Hopefully one day enough people in the US will see the truth and the lies that is the military and recruiters will have no one volunteering. I know I personally have advised several people that I have talked to over the last couple of months to visit the website www.objector.org [GI Rights] before even considering enlisting...I strongly believe that there is no civilian job that is so bad that joining the military would be any better...So on behalf of my wife and myself, I would like to say thank you for all your help and for all the volunteer work you do there, and I want you to know that it is appreciated.

*Take care, and may God bless you,
Mark A. Van Hoy"*

Military Families Speak Out!

Military Families Speak Out is an organization of people who are opposed to war in Iraq and who have relatives or loved ones in the military. They formed in November of 2002 and have contacts with military families throughout the United States and in other countries around the world.

"As people with family members and loved ones in the military, we have both a special need and a unique role to play in speaking out against war. It is our loved ones who will be on the battlefield. It is our loved ones who will risk injury and death. It is our loved ones who will return scarred from having injured innocent Iraqi civilians."

For more information visit www.mfso.org

Recruiter Truths

By Fiona Korwin-Pawlowski & James Reichard

In 2003 the United States Army is hoping to recruit 73,800 active duty and 26,400 reserve soldiers, according to Daniel Haier's 9 April article in the University of California, Santa Barbara's *Daily Lexus*. In order to reach their yearly goal, the Army has set, and historically met, monthly recruitment goals. "In March 2003 alone," Haier states, "the army recruited 6,635 out of their goal of 6,540." Every day at the Center on Conscience & War, we receive calls pertaining to recruiters and what we hear is fairly consistent. People most frequently say their recruiters made promises to them that were never fulfilled or conned them into lying about asthma, etc., in order to be eligible for enlistment. To improve our knowledge about the recruiting process, so that we can be of better help with these calls, we decided to go and find out for ourselves what the recruiters had to say.

We headed to the recruiting office in mid-August. Our project started out a little rocky when we went to the office twice and found it closed both times. We found it ironic that even though we were trying so hard to "join," it was actually difficult. This is quite a contrast to the pressure felt by recruits after they sign up.

COs at NHD (cont. from page 1)

of COs with their treatment during WWII." She said they were inspired by the current Iraqi conflict to look into the history of conscientious objectors and to discover the similarities and differences in the opposition and support that they experienced.

The young researchers are to be commended for their efforts. The demanding National History Day contest is split into three separate challenges to strain out only the best for national competition. The participants must compete at the local and state levels, finishing close enough to the top to advance. Nationals lasts the good part of a week and demands long-distance traveling for many. Though the participants who brought COs to the forefront of NHD did not receive any top awards, they all reported having positive experiences throughout the process.

"We grew to respect them [COs] because they stood up for what they believed in," said Hansen, "they found another way to help the nation, without breaking their belief system."

Hawk said that she and Barge both knew who COs were and respected them, but that they found much more respect for them after finding out "what they went through."

National History Day, a non-profit organization, has roots back to 1974, when it originated as a local contest in Cleveland, Ohio. Interest and demand for a program to promote the teaching and learning of history in the elementary and secondary schools fueled the quick expansion of the program, enabling its national recognition in 1980. NHD is headquartered in Washington, DC and supported by volunteers from around the country. Today, two million people in the US are involved in the organization.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS IN FILM

An independent documentary film producer, Jack McDonald, is in search of "contemporary stories of people who are dealing with the issues of avoiding military service today." In addition, he'd like to hear from people who went to Canada to avoid the draft and are dealing with the legacy of that decision - for good or ill. He would like to focus on objectors with political reasons for turning away from war along side of the moral issues. Mr. McDonald is anxious to hear your stories.

E-mail Jack McDonald at Jaxmcdonald@cs.com

Reach him by phone at 617.441.0462

Finally though, Fiona was able to reach the Army recruiting office by phone and had a conversation with the Sergeant (Sgt.) in charge, Martin Presley. During the conversation, he asked her height, weight, and posed some basic interest questions. Fiona mentioned that she was bringing a friend along; he laughed and asked if we were considering a buddy program.

While we each came in with questions, we hoped to get as much of the traditional sales pitch as possible. The Sergeant we had spoken to on the phone, (Sgt. Presley), was taking his daughter to the dentist when we arrived, so we were greeted by two other Sergeants who wasted no time in asking us questions. Even though this was expected, it still took a minute to make the transition to pretending we were enthusiastic about what the Army had to offer us. James said he had just graduated from high school and was looking for options, and Fiona said that she had just completed her first year of college and needed money for school. James then asked specifically about financial aid for college and was quoted, "a minimum of \$32,000." We quickly got on the subject of college majors. James told him that he was interested in electrical engineering; the recruiter said that the Army was a good place to learn about that. And he listed several MOSs, (Military Occupational Specialty), in which those skills could be employed. One of the sergeants informed us that he had been a chemical engineering major in college, "I may be dumb as a post, but I sure know how to blow stuff up," he said. Everyone laughed boisterously as if "blowing stuff up" was the funniest thing in the world. Then we were handed a booklet listing more than 200 army job trainings we could choose from.

At some point, when we were making enthusiastic comments about our future job prospects, Sergeant Presley walked in with bags of groceries. He was quite friendly and asked us some of the questions we had previously been asked. This time Fiona decided to stretch the truth just a little, she said, "I felt all the anti-war actions at my college were a little too much to deal with and I was thinking of transferring to a more conservative school." Then we laughed about the silly liberals who cannot do push-ups for a while. The recruiter told us a little bit about himself including the fact that he was a Blackhawk pilot. In response to this, another recruiter said, "Yeah, remember that time you were supposed to pick me up and you left me in the middle of the desert?" Our recruiter answered, "What are you talking about, it was a mountaintop

(cont. on page 6 as *Truths*)

Looming Draft... cont. from page 1

occupying force. The swift war was considered to be an overwhelming victory, as the media showed statues of Saddam Hussein collapsing. Coalition forces then had a new task of bringing stability to war torn Iraq. The *British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)* reported on 18 August saying, "Coalition sources say there are more than 10 attacks each day on US soldiers." On 22 July 2003, Ian Pannell, of the *BBC*, reported that "there is unease at the almost daily deaths of U.S. servicemen and their evolving role in the country... President George W. Bush has long since declared the war over – increasingly his country, the troops, and their families do not believe it." The fighting continues, the war has yet to end, and as a result, U.S. military service members are committed indefinitely.

The Pentagon is in the process of re-thinking U.S. troop commitments around the world. They have to deal with the reality that there might not be enough troops to finish the job of nation building in Iraq, not to mention Afghanistan, Liberia, and other countries where U.S. troops are involved. In an article by Dana Milbank and Vernon Loeb on 3 July 2003, *The Washington Post* reported, "with retired generals and military analysts calling for more soldiers in Iraq and leading members of Congress saying the Pentagon must sustain forces there for as long as five years, Rumsfeld has begun wrestling with a serious shortage of troops in the \$3-billion-a-month occupation of Iraq." While struggling with the concept of troop shortages in overseas missions, the Pentagon also has to deal with reservist troop shortages at home. The article continues, "the Army now has more than half of its 10-division active duty force assigned to Iraq. There is the equivalent of another division [approximately 10-18,000 soldiers] deployed in Afghanistan." Apart from this, two or three divisions are being kept in reserve for a possible conflict with North Korea, the article said. The Army also prefers to keep three or four divisions training and preparing to ultimately replace the troops that are in action. The Pentagon, however, "has no troops to replace many of those on extended deployment in Iraq."

The Pentagon is running low on choices, there are not enough troops left to replace the ones waiting to come home. On 21 July 2003, Thom Shanker of *The New York Times* reported that Pentagon statistics state that out of a 491,000 Army active duty force, 370,000 Army troops are deployed worldwide in 120 countries.

Jeffrey Kofman in an *ABC News* article on 16 July 2003 reported that morale among the 4000 troops from the 2nd Brigade of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division is running very low. Troops in this division, who have been in the Middle East since last September, were promised that they would go home by May of this year. It has now been more than two months since the promised period has passed, and the word from the Pentagon is that they will be there at least till September. Ian Pannell of the *BBC* reported on 22 July 2003 about military families' disappointment with the government. Pannell quoted Dianna Molina, a soldier's wife, "I feel they've done their part over and over and over again, and they're being disappointed." As a result of troop and family

discontent, the military will have a harder time in recruiting efforts at home. The military may find that a voluntary force is not available anymore, and the only way for the U.S. to continue its military ventures will be to draft an involuntary force.

In spite of troop shortages, cries for war are once again increasing. A 15 July 2003 article by Thomas E. Ricks and Glenn Kessler in *The Washington Post* said, "former defense secretary William Perry warned that the United States and North Korea are drifting toward war, perhaps as early as this year, in an increasingly dangerous standoff that also could result in terrorists being able to purchase a North Korean nuclear device and plant it in a U.S. city." On 1 August 2003, *The Washington Post* reported on the announcement by the Russian Foreign Minister that North Korea had agreed to multilateral talks, but there has still been no acknowledgement from North Korean officials. The U.S. expects talks to be held in mid-August. The diplomatic games between the U.S. and North Korea are reminiscent of a diplomatic game played between Iraq and the U.S. before this Spring's invasion. North Korea, however, is not the only nation on the current administration's list of "evil" regimes; Iran and Syria are also possible targets of future military action. The "Bush Doctrine," which can be found on the White House Web site, clearly illustrates pre-emptive war as a definite possibility with any "rogue state," as proven with Iraq.

(The author has recorded further facts and comments on the possibilities of a war with North Korea on page 7.)

If there is to be another war of any sort, more U.S. troops will be required for the job. And with the Pentagon already having to contemplate troop shortages in Iraq, there will be a serious call for a military draft. A call for a military draft at this time would most likely turn public opinion against those supporting it. It might even be considered political suicide.

In the online Summer 2003 edition of *Parameters*, a U.S. Army War College Quarterly, Barry Strauss, professor of History at Cornell University, wrote an article entitled "Reflections on the Citizen Soldier," in which he outlined the need for citizens to participate in public service. Although Strauss does not advocate for the return of the draft, he does say that a draft would be appropriate during a time of military emergency. Warring with another country coupled with the shortages of troops will most certainly constitute a military emergency.

This paints a dire picture for civil liberties and religious freedom in America. In the Spring 2003 edition of the *Reporter*, the article "Semantics: Slowly Seizing CO Rights" discussed the dreadful situation conscientious objectors can face if there is a serious call for the draft. A draft call under the current CO language floating around Congress will take the U.S. back to the WWI era where COs had very restricted rights.

As troops are running on low morale, and as their families are waiting for them to come home; war drums are once again resounding from the White House. A military draft would result in the loss of freedom. We must as people of conscience call for peace in this land and not allow this country to lose its freedom.

in Hawaii during training. You were fine!" It quickly became apparent that it is commonplace among recruiters to treat interviews with potential recruits as casually and as personally as possible. For the rest of the time, all of the recruiters joked with each other constantly. In addition to constant laughter our talk was also interrupted by the phone several times. During these breaks we spoke to other recruiters and studied the board of faces in the office which showed the rank and income of the recruits and recruiters of the office. James asked one of the recruiters, Sergeant Gesferd, what he was planning to do after his recruiting assignment was up, and he said, "Back to the lines. Infantry. I'm like that guy," (referring to the previous sergeant), "I just like shooting things and blowing s#!% up."

Sergeant Presley gave us the breakdown of active duty, and graphically described what our first nine months of basic training would entail. He told us about the three weeks where one gains proficiency using the infamous M-16 rifle. He talked about a rite, in which the enlisted man goes in a tear-gas filled chamber wearing a mask, removes it and attempts to state their name, social security number, and other terms of identification, before having to put the mask back on. Presley said that this is to show the men that their equipment really works. After this, he described what is called, "Victory Forge," which is the final rite of passage in basic training. He said that it is important to bring your gas mask along, because there will be tear gas released randomly along the way. Victory Forge is made up of a series of successive trails and obstacles where you use all you have learned in training. Presley failed to mention the "bayonette training", where the soldier repeatedly stabs a dummy with the bayonette while shouting, "Kill!" over and over again. He enthusiastically told us about the values that represent each week of training: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.

We asked questions and both noticed that even when Fiona asked a question, Presley would answer to James. We both decided that he saw James as the more likely recruit. Throughout his presentation he said a lot of things that are contradictory to the calls we receive at the Center. "Whatever job you put down on paper in the beginning (on your contract), is what you get once you are in," he said. Fiona asked him how women are treated and about harassment, he referred to the Army's "zero tolerance" policy. He spoke more of the money you can get for school, and how easy it is to get promoted based on college credit.

When we left, we both agreed that, based on the presentation itself and if we hadn't been exposed to any other aspect of the military story, we would have joined. It sounds like a great deal, and all you have to do is take a pretest and sign. Fiona was saying this on the way back to the Center and James replied, "All you have to do is take a hotline call." He's right, and now that we have seen first hand how well the military sells itself, what we do at the Center seems more important than ever. Because, while the presentation sounds great, nowhere in it do they tell you that you may not get the job you want, the harassment policy is only

zero tolerance in theory - as rape is at a higher rate in the military than in the civilian world, the college money may not help as much as it seems because the timing of tuition bills doesn't always match up with the Army's payment plan (not to mention that you have to be in four years and receive an honorable discharge to get it), and promotion is not guaranteed.

In the recruiters' defense, however, sometimes those of us involved in counter-recruitment are guilty of giving recruiters a bad rap. This is easy to do when you are on the phone with someone who is dealing with the unfortunate situation of a persistent recruiter who has sold the perfect package, but not the truth. But what it comes down to is that recruiters are just trying to do their job. It just makes it more important that we do the best we can at our work.

"Stopping War Where it Begins"

By Theo Sittler

Some 150 people gathered in Philadelphia 27-29 June, to explore increasingly aggressive military recruitment tactics in U.S. schools, and to learn how parents and teachers can counteract these tactics. "Stopping War Where It Begins: Organizing Against Militarism in Our Schools" was held at the Friends Center on Cherry Street. The "counter recruitment" conference, organized by 11 regional and national organizations, included discussion panels and workshops.

Topics discussed at the conference included implications of the No Child Left Behind Act, which gives military recruiters increased access to student contact information, and the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (JROTC), a U.S. military-run program for high school students.

While the No Child Left Behind Act is fairly new, JROTC has been in existence in some form since 1916. The program, taught by retired military personnel, includes classroom work (with military-issued textbooks), marching, and shooting practice.

Presenters at the counter recruitment conference said that, although otherwise advertised, the program serves primarily as a recruitment tool. According to AFSC statistics, JROTC participants join the military at a rate five times higher than those of non-participants. Presenters also argued that JROTC undercuts schools' attempts to promote peaceful conflict resolution.

Parents can petition for JROTC to be removed from the school so that money is available for other programs, presenters noted. The Outward Bound program, which teaches teamwork, discipline, and survival skills is one available alternative.

One speaker at the conference, Fernando Suarez del Solar, described the aggressive recruitment tactics that resulted in his son joining the Marine Corps. Suarez' son was killed during the recent war in Iraq by a U.S. cluster bomb that had failed to explode when first dropped.

Noting that poor immigrant families, like his, and other people of color are often recruiter targets, Suarez said he now encourages other immigrants to avoid the military and pursue school.

By Theo Sittler

In the second week of July North Korea announced that it had finished processing all of its spent nuclear fuel rods, which are essential for the manufacturing of weapons grade plutonium. Though this claim is not confirmed or proven, it does indicate that North Korea is in pursuit of a nuclear program. William Perry, former Defense Secretary, explained in *The Washington Post*, "I have held off public criticism to this point because I had hoped that the administration was going to act on this problem, and that the public criticism might be counterproductive. But time is running out, and each month the problem gets more dangerous." Perry blames moves toward aggression on the Bush administration's policy of isolation toward North Korea. The U.S. has so far demanded that it will enter into talks with North Korea only on a multilateral basis.

On 1 August 2003, *The Washington Post* reported on the announcement by the Russian Foreign Minister that North Korea had agreed to multilateral talks, but there has still been no acknowledgement from North Korean officials. The U.S. expects talks to be held in mid-August. Even though an agreement was reached, only a few days later on 4 August, *The Washington Post* reported that North Korea is seeking to exclude John R. Bolton, the U.S. Undersecretary of State, who is set to lead the talks from the U.S. side. A spokesperson for the North Korean foreign ministry spoke harsh words against Bolton, "We know that there are several hawks within the present U.S. administration but have not yet found out such rude human scum as Bolton." Harsh words from North Korea came as a response to Bolton's 31 July speech in Seoul, South Korea; "A Dictator at the Crossroads," where he insinuated a regime change was necessary in North Korea. The diplomatic games being played between the countries is creating a path that, as history has proven, can lead to war.

Louise Franklin-Ramirez, a longtime educator and justice and peace activist, died on 6 August at the age of 97. Her first activism, at 12 years old, was inspired by her Episcopal Church. She raised money for refugees and orphans after the Turkish massacre of the Armenians. She recently participated in the large marches against the war in Iraq, and up until her death was planning actions to commemorate the nuclear terrorism against the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

She taught in Washington DC and Puerto Rico, and when Virginia's Prince Edward County closed all public schools rather than comply with a Federal Court Desegregation Order, she went there to teach black students so they would be prepared when the schools reopened. In the 1950s she opened toy stores in Puerto Rico and DC selling toys that emphasized cooperation, and later was one of the founders of the Toys of Peace campaign. She said that her activism grew out of her concern for future generations of children.

In 1981 she had a heart attack while she was chained to a post office door, witnessing against the renewed draft registration. She later married John Steinbach, the fellow activist who came to her aid at that time. Her life is an inspiration to all who knew her.

By Micheal McEvoy
Bertram, TX

My family has a long history of military involvement. I have family that was in the Iron Brigade during the American Civil War. My grandfather fought in WWI and died in 1968 from complications due to gas damage to his lungs. My father and both of his brothers served in the Army.

I joined the Marines in 1977, reporting to MCRD San Diego in April. I joined thinking that I would be helping save the world and making it a safer place for people to live in peace. I started out in the Reserves, so I could go to college. I went on active-duty on January 15, 1984 and was assigned to the Inspector-Instructor Staff, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines in Chicago, Illinois. I became a qualified NBC Defense Specialist (5711), which then became my primary MOS [Military Occupational Specialty.]

It was while working in this MOS that I began to see that human lives were not held as valuable as were tactical and strategic goals. While my becoming a conscientious objector started out with a humanist basis, my journey to Christianity played a greater role as time went on.

In 1988, when I realized that I could no longer justify killing people, I went to my Executive Officer and talked to him about it. While he sympathized with my feelings, he advised me to not seek a CO discharge, but to keep quiet and finish out my remaining two years on my enlistment. He told me that my command would only jerk me around for the next two years and make my life rather miserable.

My Commanding Officer found out about my decision and did, indeed, make my life miserable. The Sergeant Major was not willing to intervene and neither was my XO [Examining Officer.]

On December 10, 1990, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines was activated for Operation Desert Storm. I was sent to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, to assist with the training and mount-out. While there the Battalion Commander requested that I be allowed to go with the Battalion as the NBC Defense Officer, a position which was not filled by a qualified officer. My CO [Commanding Officer] refused the request and sent me back to Chicago.

I received a General Discharge on January 14, 1991, the day Operation Desert Storm began and the day before Headquarters Marine Corps issued an order retaining all 5711's for the duration as a critical MOS.

Since my discharge I have become a Christian and joined the Mennonite Church. I work with several projects centered on Peace and Justice, including the Non-Military Options for Youth Campaign in Austin, Texas. I have left my career in the military behind, and now work fulltime as an EMT for a rural EMS service. My income is intentionally below the taxable level as my part in war tax resistance.

Did you know that when anyone except your spouse inherits your IRA they pay taxes on it?

**CONSIDER MAKING CCW THE
BENEFICIARY OF YOUR IRA.**



Center on Conscience & War
1830 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009-5706

Address service requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Washington, DC
Permit No. 6346

From the Desk of the Executive Director

“After our preliminary report was made and it was established that this was a better weapon than mustard gas, the production of this material in iron on a semi-large scale was undertaken.”

— W. Lee Lewis, inventor of Lewisite in a 1921 speech at Catholic University

What do Edgewood, Maryland; Cleveland, Ohio; the Chesapeake Bay; and the neighborhood of Spring Valley in Washington, DC all have in common? They are all linked to a chemical weapon developed in 1918 so toxic that the British Government made an antidote years after the end of the war—just in case. Developed at the American University campus; manufactured outside of Cleveland; stored in Edgewood, Maryland and possibly dumped in the Chesapeake Bay, Lewisite had the plus of breaking down when put in water. But the down side was that one-third of the material was arsenic which—as anyone in Spring Valley in Washington, DC can tell you—lasts forever.

The local press [very local, the neighborhood newspaper, the *Northwest Current*] has been dutifully reporting the third round in thirty years of attempting to clean up (and cover-up) this legacy of nearly one hundred years. But this doesn't make national news.

Every once in a while, there is a story on one of the television “magazines” about the land mines we have left around the world,

directly or indirectly. But rarely does it make the national news. Is it news that yet another child has been maimed by a land mine?

The cluster bombs left lying on the ground in the Afghanistan might as well be invisible.

And the people they kill are invisible as well.

We ignore the legacy of war. Our government never speaks of it and often tries to hide it. But the legacy of war lives on whether our government or we pay attention to it.

The same is true with our actions. We can leave a legacy of information and support and peace. You can contribute to our daily operations with a check. You can contribute to our future making us the beneficiary of your IRA or your will.

But act to leave a legacy of peace or all that will be left will be the legacy of war.

Yours for Peace and Justice,

J. E. McNeil

