

“Where’s the outreach and support? What happened to all the stuff we were promised? All the stuff that we deserve, where is it? [Our leaders] don’t care. That’s the biggest realization that I’ve come to. They do not care. They. Do.

Not. Care. **They treat us like cannon fodder.**

They send us over there to fight and they expect us to win. And if we make it back, if we’re lucky enough, that’s all we get: thanks for your service. It’s a disgrace. I feel it’s shameful what they are doing. Shameful. Shameless.”
—Drew Cameron, US Army and National Guard



Drew Cameron



“This is an Imperialist War for OIL and Money.

War and Occupation will never bring liberation. I’m dedicated in doing what I can to end this occupation!! I myself almost died on Feb 26th of 2005 from a RPG Blast. I’m very grateful and pretty lucky to be walking but I will have to live with my physical and emotional scars brought upon by a few capitalists who wanted to make some money. Let’s end ALL occupations.”

Chanan Suárez Díaz

—Chanan Suárez Díaz, US Navy

“Hell, if you want to get technical about it, I was made to be an American terrorist.

I was trained in everything a terrorist is trained to do...[T]hat’s the problem with war—your president, your generals, they send you off to go fight these battles. And all the way down to your commanding officers, they don’t go out there with you. They send you out there to fight and do the crazy shit and do the dirty stuff. You’re the one who has to live with the nightmares from it. You come back, you’re nothing, you know? Guys are living in the streets that fought in Iraq...I had to do things for the wealth of



Joshua Key

other people...I blame them because they made me do it. You can lie to the world; you can’t lie to a person who’s seen it. They made me have to do things that a man should never have to do, for the purpose of their gain. Not the people’s—their financial gain.”

—Joshua Key, US Army

“I’m a veteran of Operation Iraqi Plunder.

I think it is important to tell it like it is. I refuse to call it Operation Iraqi Freedom. There was no freedom over there. It was not a war to liberate Iraq. It was a war to make it safe for U.S. business interests. It was a war of aggression and occupation. To call it Operation Iraqi Freedom is an insult to the Iraqi people and it is an insult to humanity.”

—Charlie Anderson, US Navy



Charlie Anderson



Lennox Yearwood, Jr.

“I joined the military as part of the ‘poor peoples draft’—to help pay for my education...Opposition to this illegal war and occupation is not a cause—it constitutes a response to a state of emergency. It is our urgent responsibility to stop this war...If we can all come together—black and white, brown and

yellow, rich and poor, male and female, straight and gay, republican and democrat—whether you still love this country or are withdrawn in anger, [we can] defeat this war and restore justice and democracy.”

—Lennox Yearwood, Jr., US Air Force Reserve

“My struggle with oppression, as a gay man and as a multiracial minority, made my participation in the invasion and occupation of Iraq all the more hypocritical and wrong. Those experiences also fuel my passion to bring an end to the war, and of preventing future acts of aggression and injustice.”

—Stephen Funk, US Marine Corps



Stephen Funk

“My illusions concerning what it meant to be a soldier were somewhat shattered after I reached my first duty assignment, when I realized that **the military doesn’t really care about its soldiers.**

The bottom line is always, do they have enough bodies to fill the positions, period. Barracks quality, food quality, health care quality, it mattered little.”

—Adrienne Kinne, US Army and Army Reserve



Adrienne Kinne



Jen Hogg

“I joined the military in 2000 when I was in high school, two months after I turned 18. **I bought into the honor of the military.**

Maybe I was trying to be tough. Either way there is no real honor in an organization whose history is so tragic to those who have served in its ranks and to multitudes of those that have died, been raped and pillaged in its tracks. I am just now starting to really see the lies of the military that are perpetuated by society. There is no toughness in learning to kill for greed or joining the military because I thought it would be easier than saving money for college.”

—Jen Hogg, National Guard

“I would love to talk to more high school kids, especially those thinking of joining. **Recruiters lie, plain and simple.**”

—Matt Howard, US Marine Corps



Matt Howard

*Quotes compiled from the following sources: Peter Laufer, *Mission Rejected: U.S. Soldiers Who Say No to Iraq* (White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing Company, 2006); Michael Moore, ed., *Will They Ever Trust Us Again? Letters from the War Zone* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004); Ron Jacobs, “We Talk About the Truth, and That’s Hard for People to Accept Sometimes”: A Conversation with Three Iraq Veterans Against the War,” interview with Adrienne Kinne, Matt Howard, and Drew Cameron, *Counterpunch*, 14/15 April 2007; “You Can’t Win a Crime, You Can Only Stop it”: Iraq Veterans Speak Out,” *International Socialist Review* 52 (May-June 2007); Website of Iraq Veterans Against the War (ivaw.org). The first quote on the cover is from a veteran recruiter, speaking to the *Albany Times Union*, and is quoted on www.famedetroit.org. The cover photo of the US soldier is borrowed from www.famedetroit.org. The second cover photo is of 12-year-old war victim Ali Ismael Abbas, and is taken from an article by Samia Nakhoul from April 2003, found at <http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article2781.htm>. Photo of Joshua Key is from www.arabamericannews.com. This pamphlet was last revised in March 2011.

Free College Tuition?

Recruiters might promise you tens of thousands of free dollars for college, but it's not free—you must work for it. And it's not automatic, even under the new GI bill:

- People who want to transfer college benefits to family members will have to enlist for a total of 10 years.
- People who receive a less than fully honorable discharge (as about one in four do) will lose all GI Bill benefits—including those with “general discharges.”
- Those who leave the military early (as one in three do) will get reduced benefits.
- Veterans who attend college out-of-state may only get part of their tuition covered.

If you are worried about paying for college, there are many other sources of aid available. It pays to investigate the many alternatives before signing away eight years of your life to the military. For specific info on college, career, and scholarship options in New York, visit www.sbusja.com or www.brooklynpeace.org.

Are you prepared to fight in any war, any place, any time that the government orders you to?

Have you checked out all the job training programs and colleges in your area?

If you become unhappy after enlisting, do you know how hard it will be to get out?

Have you talked to any of the many veterans who didn't like the military? Why didn't they make the military a career?

*This panel is composed of excerpts from www.projectyano.org.

MORE RESOURCES

If you're already in the military:

GI Rights Hotline

1-800-394-9544

www.girights.org

Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW)

www.ivaw.org

Service Women's Action Network (SWAN)

supportwomenvets@gmail.com

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors

www.objector.org

Courage to Resist

www.couragetoresist.org

For alternatives to military enlistment:

Coalition Against Militarism in Our Schools (CAMS)

www.projectgreatfutures.org

Finding Alternatives to Military Enlistment (FAME)

www.famedetroit.org

Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (Project YANO)

www.projectyano.org

Brooklyn For Peace

www.brooklynpeace.org

Stony Brook University Social Justice Alliance

www.sbusja.com

Other local groups of interest:

Military Families Speak Out

www.mfso.org

US Labor Against the War

www.uslaboragainstawar.org

War Resisters League

<http://warresisters.org>

This leaflet was designed by the Anti-Militarism Committee of Brooklyn For Peace (www.brooklynpeace.org) and the Stony Brook University Social Justice Alliance (www.sbusja.com)

VETS SPEAK: WAR, LIES, & LIFE IN THE MILITARY

“I've been recruiting for years and I don't know one recruiter who wasn't dishonest about it. I did it myself.”



“They made me have to do things that a man should never have to do, for the purpose of their gain.”

“Recruiters lie, plain and simple.”