

## SOME WORDS FROM OUR SOLDIERS...

### “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 Suarezdiaz, 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



Joshua Key

in Iraq...I had to do things for the wealth of 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



Rev. 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.”

—Rev. 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 Eagle Funk, US Marine Corps



Stephen Eagle 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 **Adrienne Kinne** 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



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. The first quote on the cover is from a veteran recruiter, speaking to the *Albany Times Union*, and is quoted on [www.famedetroit.org](http://www.famedetroit.org). The cover photo of the US soldier is borrowed from [www.famedetroit.org](http://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](http://www.arabamericannews.com). This pamphlet was designed in July 2007 and revised in August 2008 and January 2009.

## \$70,000 for College?

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. Unless you qualify for special jobs or sign up for an extra-long term, you'll never see the higher amounts of money. To qualify for any college aid at all, you have to pay a \$1,200 non-refundable deposit to the military. If you receive a less-than-honorable discharge (as about one in four people do), leave the military in less than 3 years, (as one in three do), or later decide not to go to college, the military will keep your deposit and give you nothing.

57 percent of the veterans who sign up for the GI Bill have never seen a penny in college assistance, and the average net payout to veterans has been only \$2,151.

- *Are you prepared to fight in any war, any place, any time that the government orders you to?*
- *Have you really considered and checked out all the job training programs and colleges in your area?*
- *If you become unhappy after you enlist, 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.famedetroit.org](http://www.famedetroit.org) and [www.projectyano.org](http://www.projectyano.org).

## MORE RESOURCES:

### *If you're already in the military:*

**GI Rights Hotline**  
1-800-394-9544  
[www.girights.org](http://www.girights.org)

**Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW)**  
[www.ivaw.org](http://www.ivaw.org)

**Service Women's Action Network**  
[supportwomensvets@gmail.com](mailto:supportwomensvets@gmail.com)

**Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors**  
[www.objector.org](http://www.objector.org)

**Courage to Resist**  
[www.couragetoresist.org](http://www.couragetoresist.org)

### *Info about alternatives to military enlistment:*

**Brooklyn For Peace (BFP)**  
[www.brooklynpeace.org](http://www.brooklynpeace.org)

**Coalition Against Militarism in Our Schools (CAMS)**  
[www.militaryfreeschools.org](http://www.militaryfreeschools.org)  
[www.projectgreatfutures.org](http://www.projectgreatfutures.org)

**Finding Alternatives to Military Enlistment (FAME)**  
[www.famedetroit.org](http://www.famedetroit.org)

**Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (Project YANO)**  
[www.projectyano.org](http://www.projectyano.org)

**Women of Color Resource Center**  
[www.coloredgirls.org](http://www.coloredgirls.org)

**Stony Brook Social Justice Alliance**  
[www.sbusja.com](http://www.sbusja.com)

### *Additional groups working to oppose war and militarism:*

**Military Families Speak Out (MFSO)**  
[www.mfso.org](http://www.mfso.org)

**US Labor Against the War (USLAW)**  
[www.uslaboragainstawar.org](http://www.uslaboragainstawar.org)

**War Resisters League (WRL)**  
<http://warresisters.org>

This pamphlet was designed by Stony Brook University's Social Justice Alliance. Visit [www.sbusja.com](http://www.sbusja.com) for more information.

# VETS SPEAK: US SOLDIERS ON WAR & 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."**