

WAGE PEACE

Bring the Troops Home Safe

Our troops are in harm's way for no good reason. Many of the military are very dubious about this war, like General Clark who led the Kosovo campaign, and growing numbers of the troops out there now.¹

The military follow civilian orders; **politicians decide**, and most **never served**. There are fewer vets in Congress than ever before and only one Senator has a child serving.² President Bush avoided Vietnam while Vice-President Cheney "had other priorities" as did Attorney Gen. Ashcroft, Richard Perle, Paul Wolfowitz and many more³; Defense Sec. Rumsfeld never saw action in the Navy in the 1950s. And they even propose cutting the VA budget by \$14 billion over 10 years!⁴

161,000 Gulf War veterans are on disability and another 48,000 have filed claims with the VA — more than a quarter of all those who served.⁵ Those vets are twice as likely to have children with birth defects, because of the depleted uranium weaponry used, then and now. The human costs of war go far beyond the body counts. See:

Veterans Against Iraq War, www.vaiw.org, or vvaw.org

¹Wash.Post 1/31/03, NYNews 3/16/03 ²NYTimes 3/22/03 ³SFChron. 10/8/02 ⁴NYTimes 3/25/03 ⁵CNN 1/17/03

What Can YOU Do Now?

Speak out This war has inspired the largest protests ever, all over the world. Join them! Or find (or start) a candlelight **Vigil**; there is comfort in gathering together, and an important sense of spiritual peace. **Talk** with your neighbors. **Vote!** Call Congress (202-224-3121); write to your Representatives and your local newspaper. **Educate** yourself. The print media is not all bad, but you do have to dig deep for facts; the web is easier. Check out:

**guardian.co.uk independent.co.uk nytimes.com news.yahoo.com
commondreams.org zmag.org indymedia.org mbeaw.org**

Local actions and info: San Jose: **sanjosepeace.org**

Santa Cruz: **rcnv.org** Bay Area: **bapd.org**

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*The invasion of Iraq was wrong six months ago,
wrong six weeks ago and is still wrong now.*

Why are we there anyway?

To liberate the Iraqi people? In the second week of war, it's clear they don't want us. This is not the "cakewalk" some thought it would be.¹ The buses from Damascus are full of Iraqis going home to defend their country; the refugee camps are empty.² Meanwhile, our own government won't let Iraqi refugees into the US without jailing them.³

And the Iraqis remember that in 1991 we called on them to revolt and then let them get slaughtered.⁴ No wonder they don't trust us.

To destroy nuclear, biological or chemical weapons? Iraq doesn't have any nukes; the "evidence" was a crude fake.⁵ The UN Inspectors only wanted "not years, nor weeks, but months" to make certain Iraq had no long-range rockets or chemical or biological weapons.⁶

To avenge 9/11? Iraq *did not do* that; **no link** with Iraq has ever been found.⁷ That was Osama Bin-Laden, who is probably in Pakistan.

To make Iraq's neighbors safer? The Arab League wants us to *stop* the war.⁸ Saudi Arabia tried to float a peace plan.⁹ The State Department says regime change in Iraq will *not* have a "democratic domino effect."¹⁰

To make America safer? The war is only making us *less* safe. The CIA said that war would take our risk of terrorist attack from Iraq from "very low" to "pretty high."⁷ It's just making recruits for Al-Qaeda.

¹Washington Post 2/13/02 ²Guardian (UK) 3/26/03 ³San Jose Mercury 3/19/03 ⁴SF Chronicle 3/27/03
⁵Reuters 3/25/03 ⁶Guardian 3/7/03 ⁷Reuters 10/9/02 ⁸AFP 3/24/03 ⁹AP 3/26/03 ¹⁰LA Times 3/14/03

This flyer made 3/28/03 by Pete Shanks, fly@wordsontheweb.com; volunteer labor

When you're in a hole, first stop digging

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