Full Spectrum Counter-recruitment
Workshop Presentation for the 2020 Veterans for Peace Convention

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National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth
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Veterans For Peace knows that the U.S. is a nation addicted to war. At this time of uncertainty, it is critically important that we, as veterans, continue to be clear and concise that our nation must turn from war to diplomacy and peace. It is high time to unwind all these tragic, failed and unnecessary wars of aggression, domination and plunder. It is time to turn a page in history and to build a new world based on human rights, equality and mutual respect for all. We must build momentum toward real and lasting peace. Nothing less than the survival of human civilization is at stake.

Source: Excerpt of Veterans For Peace Statement on Withdrawal of U.S. Troops from Syria, (19 December 2018)

Veterans For Peace is in Nicaragua at the 40th anniversary celebration of liberation from the Somoza dictatorship.
Veterans for Peace is an international organization with over 120 chapters across the United States and abroad, made up of military veterans and non-veterans dedicated to building a culture of peace, exposing the true costs of war, and healing the wounds of war.

Some of these chapters have Truth in Recruitment or counter-recruitment outreach to youth as part of their community engagement for peace.
Counter-recruitment or Truth in Recruitment by Peace Veterans is one of the most effective forms of witness about the realities of military service to our youth because young people recognize the value of the “real” in a popular culture so obsessed with the virtual.
The Veterans for Peace national website's Truth in Recruiting Resources site
https://www.veteransforpeace.org/our-work/truth-in-recruiting
VFP chapters have reached out to youth in their high schools tabling materials about the realities of military service and alternatives to joining the military.
Counter-recruiting at Boscobel High School 2013 - Clarence Kailin
Veterans for Peace Chapter 25 - Madison Wisconsin
Tabling at Cookeville High School 2016 - Veterans for Peace Chapter 089 - Nashville, Tennessee
And tabled about the realities of military service at Career Fairs where the military were recruiting.
Tabling at the Benton County High School Career Convention 2017 - Linus Pauling Veterans For Peace Chapter 132 - Corvallis Oregon
VFP Chapters have tabled information at town fairs.
Tabling at the Common Ground Fair 2006
Tom Sturtevant Veterans for Peace Chapter 001 - Maine
VFP Chapters have sponsored cultural events to offer a deeper reflection on what our wars and the service to them mean beyond superficial patriotic tropes and the importance of pursuing peace.
24th annual Voices of Peace poetry contest - 2019
Corporal Jeffrey M. Lucey Veterans for Peace Chapter 041
Cape Cod Massachusetts
VFP Chapters have developed exhibitions in the community to educate about the realities of our wars.
And established Peace Scholarships to students from military families.
Peace Scholarship Recipient 2018 - Veterans for Peace Chapter 50
Traverse City, Michigan
VFP Chapters have developed Military I.Q. tests for students to make them think more deeply about what military service could mean to their lives.
Military IQ Test given to Seattle high school students to correct some of the misperceptions about the military they have - Veterans for Peace - Greater Seattle Chapter 92

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Military I.Q. Quiz</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. How many years do I have to serve if I enlist in the military?</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. 2 years</td>
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<td>B. 4 years</td>
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<td>C. 6 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. 8 years</td>
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| 2. Is the military a good place to learn a job for a career when I get out? |
| A. Yes |
| B. No |
| C. Probably not |
| D. Depends on my officer |

| 3. What training do you receive if you join the military? |
| A. Basic training |
| B. Specialized training |
| C. No training |

| 4. What does the military do to ensure the safety of its personnel? |
| A. Provide ample food and rest |
| B. Protect against harm |
| C. No measures taken |

| 5. How many women are in the military? |
| A. 10% |
| B. 20% |
| C. 30% |
| D. 50% |

| 6. What does the military do to prevent heart attacks? |
| A. Provide medication |
| B. Encourage physical activity |
| C. No measures taken |

| 7. What is the most important reason to join the military? |
| A. Will get a good job |
| B. Will get to see the world |

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Answers to the Military I.Q. Quiz

1. Answer is D. 8 years are required in the all-volunteer military. The length of active duty varies depending on branch of the military. In fact, it could be more than 8 years. At the height of the Iraq/Afghanistan wars, tours were extended for hundreds of thousand of military personnel without their consent. Called “stop loss”, it can be implemented for the duration of the war. (see enlistment contract USC 606,12103(c)).

2. Answer is C. As Dick Cheney famously said, “The military is not a jobs program. We train enlistees to be soldiers. According to the Veterans Economic opportunity Report, 53% of veterans on separation will face a period of unemployment”. It is why the unemployment and homelessness among veterans is so much higher than the civilian population.

3. Answer is C. At least 1/3 of the women in the military are sexually assaulted or harassed. 2/3 of the women who reported, said they had “had unwanted sexual contact”. Military Sexual Violence has been called an epidemic. (What every Girl Should Know About the U.S. Military, War Resisters brochure).

4. Answer is B. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 31% of vets of the American war in Viet Nam have PTSD, 11% of those from the Afghanistan and 20% from the Iraq war. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is called the “signature wound” of of Post 9/11 wars.

5. Answer is A. Department of Defense Directive 1332.14 allows anyone in the Delayed Entry Program to reject their enrolment contract. You can write a letter or just not enrolment.
VFP Chapters have developed media resources and used those by other peace groups to get a more critical message out about how militarism effects our communities and impacts our youth.
Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.

Stop Recruiting Kids

Sharing Stop Recruiting Kids Social Media Meme 2016 - Veterans for Peace - Spokane Chapter 035
Billboard against the Miramar Air Show – San Diego Veterans for Peace - Hugh Thompson Memorial Chapter 091
Yet new challenges for Peace Groups are emerging in our schools and communities as the military struggles to meet its recruitment quotas and young people are less willing to enlist or cannot meet basic qualifications.
And we see an unprecedented response from the Department of Defense to meet their quotas by introducing or expanding militarized programs into our public schools that are basically assuming educational roles for our economically vulnerable students...
… or directly militarizing public schools to prepare youth configured for military recruitment...

Ames Marine Military Math & Science Academy Middle School, Chicago
...and to increase their influence.

Army, Navy, Airforce, and Marine JROTC unit expansion looming in our public high schools, represents the greatest existential threat to civilian education in the United States and is the canary in the coal mine for advancing cultural militarization for our country.
The service, which is trying to grow to 500,000 active-duty soldiers by 2028, has found that Americans at high schools with JROTC programs are more than twice as likely to enlist after graduation, according to Maj. Gen. John R. Evans, Jr., who helms Army Cadet Command.

There currently are proposals in Congress to increase the number of schools with JROTC from the current 3400 to 6000 by 2031 (it's in the Senate's proposed 2021 National Defense Authorization Act and HR 6415.)
Department of Defense Science Technology Engineering and Math Programs, STEM, are continuing to gain a greater presence in our public K – 12 primary and secondary public schools and in our Junior Colleges and Universities. School districts, hard pressed for funding, resort to Pentagon offers and relinquish the role for teaching Science classes, and replacing Physical Education periods with JROTC.

In the near future, post COVID, this need is likely only to increase.

Learn More at: https://dodstem.us/stem-programs
And increasingly, schools are allowing students to take JROTC to satisfy their Physical Education requirement.

Learn more at: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4285375/
And Now with a Pandemic
...and schools closed due to concerns for viral spreading...
...military recruiters have temporarily lost access to high schools for in person military recruitment contact with youth.
So the Pentagon is allowing recruiters to go on social media platforms without strict guidelines to reach youth through organized teams called...
...and the military is recruiting youth through organized gaming online.
Ready to Dominate w/ U.S. Army?
Facebook Community:

1,364,272 people like this

2,291,707 people follow this
And it is growing...

Check it out at:
https://www.facebook.com/pg/StoneMountain64/videos/
And this is just one site. The other services are developing their own presence on multiple social media platforms and following this strategy of reaching youth for recruitment purposes.

Navy recruiting Sailors for esports team Joint Base San Antonio
Watch the Esports video to learn more at: https://nnomy.org/esportsvideo/
The U.S. Military is the largest employer on the planet but it is not a jobs program; it was created to fight our wars.

The Pentagon Esports platforms were not created for gaming; they were designed for the purpose of military recruitment.
The Army’s esports team, which began in 2018, has never had overwhelming public support. The use of popular shooter and strategy games such as Call of Duty; Counter-Strike: Global Offensive; Fortnite; Magic: the Gathering; and more to recruit gamers was seen as morally questionable by some.

- Army Times

Source:
War is Not a Video Game!
Additionally, an important aspect about militarized video games is not that they create or don't create serial shooters, as defenders of this type of entertainment consistently conflate as an issue when peace activists raise concerns...
...but rather desensitize the gamer population to real violence and normalize militarization as a solution to problems resulting in conflict.

Hours spent participating in ritualized virtual killing has a cost and this normalization ultimately serves to promote the brand of the military and supports militarized foreign policy unconsciously...
...and, of course, when coupled with Pentagon Egames sponsorship, it produces direct recruitment contact with participating gamers and opportunities for military recruiters to data mine participants for later attempts to recruit them.
Those of us in the Peace Community that take issue with unlimited access to our children and youth by Pentagon Recruitment programs in our schools and online will

Push Back
But we need more participation by historical allies like Veterans for Peace to alert public concern about new recruitment technologies directed at our youth by the Department of Defense.
We need more allies in the schools like sympathetic teachers and school administrators who care enough about their students...
...that they will allow Peace Veterans into their schools to talk about the realities of military service and the human costs of our wars...
...and we deserve a seat at the table with military recruiters when we are parents and it concerns our children's futures, their privacy rights, and our parental rights over minor aged youth.
According to a Rand study about Army enlistment, a full 46% said they enlisted due to purely occupational reasons; only 9% said they joined for entirely institutional ones.

Source: https://taskandpurpose.com/popular/5-reasons-soldiers-join-army
Misplaced national spending priorities result in insufficient alternatives to joining the military for many, but that makes it even more important to find the ones that do exist and raise awareness of them through the educational work of local and national c-r groups.
We need more teachers and students to form peace clubs in their schools...

Peace Club Alliance and Summer Peace Camp - San Pedro Neighbors for Peace and Justice – Los Angeles
...who prioritize inviting Peace Veterans into classes to talk with students about the realities of military service and wars.

Armando Perez, who left the Army Reserves, and Nancy Cruz of Project on Youth and Non-military Opportunities (Project YANO) talk to a class at San Diego State University
...who witness to our youth to the realities of war and its impacts on lives in artistic expressions that can make connections...

Hip Hop artist, and VFP Member, Miles Megaciph counter-recruits in New York area schools with We Are Not Your Soldiers
... that can connect with youth with a peace message and open their minds to a different future than military service...

Veteran and counter-recruiter Hart Viges of Sustainable Options For Youth (SOY) talks with youth while tabling in an Austin Texas city school.
...and that can connect with other concerned community members to activate pushback to put limits on the military in our schools and with our children.

Veteran and VFP Board Director Natasha Erskine at the "Dangerous Women" event at Jane Addams Museum - Chicago
Can Veterans for Peace convene a working group to address school militarization?
There is the potential for peace networks to cooperate to develop strategies to coordinate their social media messaging collectively, to educate and raise public awareness, and...
...to occupy the spaces and places where Military Recruiters are contacting children and youth.

That means online during COVID and after and in our public schools when they reconvene.
Activists who seek to interject critical chats on military sponsored esports gaming sites should assess which messaging to implement that will have the greatest impact with youth but stay within the rules governing those social media platforms...
...and coordinate social media actions, with multiple participants and chapters if possible, to increase your presence to others in the gaming environment...

...and to put on notice, to both military and youth gamers, that activists are monitoring these sites with a concerted concern for militarized messaging and an awareness of military recruiting taking place.
The Department of Defense, with its unlimited budget, ... will adopt new forms of military recruitment to conform to the technology that youth use to communicate with and to each other.
Truth in recruitment activism needs to innovate for the changing times.
Cultural militarization will increasingly divide our country and does not serve a legitimate national defense.
Discuss in your chapter the essential importance of demilitarizing our schools.
Those who campaign for the cause of maintaining civilian controlled public schools struggle to maintain our democratic values.
Can your VFP Chapter participate?
If your VFP Chapter does counter-recruitment or truth in recruitment activism in your community.
...please let the national counter-recruitment community know by listing your chapter's youth demilitarization activism in the National Directory of Youth Demilitarization Groups
Go to: https://nnomy.org/listyourgroup/
National Directory of Youth Demilitarization Groups

### Entries with Organizational Names starting with 'V'

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<tr>
<th>Veterans For Peace</th>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans for Peace Chicago - Chapter 26</td>
<td>Veterans For Peace Corvallis - Chapter 132</td>
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<td>Veterans for Peace Detroit Metro - Chapter 74</td>
<td>Email: VFP Corvallis</td>
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<td>Veterans for Peace Madison - Chapter 25</td>
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VFP National and 9 other chapters are currently listed
NNOMYpeace is here to assist your chapter with resources and the experience of Truth in Recruitment and counter-recruitment groups nationally that comprise our network.
Questions and answers about military service for youth - (95% of youth access the internet through their smart phones) – http://winningthepeace.org
The real deal on joining the military, as told by veterans ... and what the military recruiters won't tell you.

OBJECTIVE: “Before You Enlist!” provides a rational voice to counter the seductive and often deceptive recruiting practices of the U.S. military. The message is not “don’t enlist” but rather to provide young people and their families a more complete picture of the life-altering consequences of joining the military – especially in wartime. Latest version: 2018. Length: 16:34.

Counter Recruitment video produced by Telequest in collaboration with American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), NNOMY, with shared stories from About Face and Veterans for Peace vets. - http://beforeyouenlist.org
The Peaceful Career Alternatives website is for finding alternatives to joining the military to jump start your life, a project of The National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY) 2020 - https://peacefulcareers.org/

In a time in the United States with escalating educational tuition and military budgets, many of our young people are finding themselves faced with few options for earning a degree or finding a career and turn to military offers of college funding and learning job skills.

The Peaceful Career Alternatives website has been developed with the support of multiple national, regional, and local peace and religious organizations to provide young people deciding how to begin their productive working lives with alternative ideas and options without entering military service.
Thank you for participating in this workshop on Counter-recruitment.

We can accomplish more together
...and thank you for the work you do for peace VFP!

The 2018 Back-To-School kit for Counter-recruitment and School Demilitarization Organizing is a catalog of basic material useful to educating young people and school personnel about the realities of military enlistment and war.

Download the Kit
National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth
nonomy.net
For a printable PDF version of this workshop segment
Please visit:

And please visit the San Diego Peace Campus @ http://www.peacecampus.org