

LET'S SUPPORT THE TRUTH!

Number of military families that need food stamps to put food on the table: **Over 4,200**¹

Increase in claims of lost jobs and benefits by National Guard and Reserve members since September 11, 2001: **60%**²

Number of veterans currently waiting 6 months or more for initial appointments to see a doctor: **235,000**³

Shortage in 2004 budget request for veterans' medical care: **\$1.9 billion**³

Amount of requested *cut* in 2004 Budget for military housing and medical facility funding: **\$1.5 billion**⁴

Budget year proposal described as "*disgraceful...a sham*" by the Veterans of Foreign Wars: **2005**⁵

Segment of adult homeless population that has served in the armed forces: **33% (about 250,000)**⁶

Percentage of US military women that have *reported* sexual harassment: **90%**⁷

Percentage of US military women that have *reported* being raped: **33%**⁸

Percentage of US military women denied promotion for refusing to provide sexual favors: **20%**⁸

Number of US military personnel that have sought help for illnesses resulting from Gulf War I service: **About 100,000**⁹

Number of disabled Gulf War I veterans: **518,739**¹⁰

Number of deaths attributed to Gulf War illness: **Almost 10,000**¹¹

Year that US first used the highly toxic and radioactive Depleted Uranium (DU) on the battlefield: **1991**¹²

Percentage of military personnel completing a 4-year enlistment that actually receive GI Bill benefits: **16%**¹³

Increase in tuition at 4-year colleges between 1995 and 1999: **65%**¹³

Increase in *maximum* GI Bill award between 1995 and 1999: **16%**¹³

... IS THIS HOW WE HONOR THE TROOPS?

The members of this community who contributed to this ad are deeply concerned for the safety and welfare of the US men and women serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere around the world.

We are deeply concerned for their sacrifices, their families and their future.

We ask that you join us in our call:

BRING THE TROOPS HOME ALIVE AND WELL! BRING THEM HOME NOW!

And when they come home, let's not turn our backs on them!

Let your feelings be known: Write the head of the Veterans Administration!

Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420-0001

For information about local efforts to abolish war and violence, or to make a contribution for this ad and others like it, contact:

Veterans for Peace, PO Box 532, Bayside, CA 95524 • **Women's International League for Peace & Freedom**, PO Box 867, Arcata, CA 95518
Communities for Peace, PO Box 5075, Eureka, CA 95502 • **Redwood Peace & Justice Center**, 1040 H Street, Arcata, CA 95521

¹Armed Forces Information Service, May 24, 2002.

²US Department of Labor; *AP/Times-Standard*, Aug. 16, 2004.

³*New York Times*, Aug. 14, 2002; *American Legion Magazine*, May 2003.

⁴"Bush fiscal 2004 budget, a 14% cut," UPI, Oct. 17, 2003.

⁵VFW statement released by *Washington Post*, Jan. 17, 2003.

⁶"Overview of Homelessness," US Department of Veterans Affairs, April 28, 2003.

⁷Department of Defense Study, 1996.

⁸Murdoch & Nichols Study, 1995.

⁹*Gulf War Veteran Resource Pages*, March 12, 2001.

¹⁰Department of Veterans Affairs; *American Free Press*, Aug. 13, 2004.

¹¹www.military.com - Jan. 29, 2003.

¹²*Gulf War Veteran Resource Pages*, July 1, 1996.

¹³Rand Corporation Study, 2000.