

## 16th Annual Peace Writing Contest for San Diego City and County High School Students

The Peace Resource Center of San Diego is sponsoring a Peace Writing Contest with cash prizes for 10 winners. The topic is, "What Can My Generation Do to Create a Peaceful World Free of War and Violence?"

The contest is open to all City and County high schools students, grades 9-12. There are two award categories, one for essays and one for creative writing. Each category has a \$100 prize for each of the top 5 winners. The deadline is Tuesday, April 19, 2007.

For rules and other information, call the Peace Resource Center at 619-263-9301 and leave a message with your name and address

### Know anyone in the military who needs help?

As the war and occupation in Iraq drag on, more and more members of the military object to being forced to occupy a foreign land. If you know anyone in the military who needs help with their rights or with getting a discharge, tell them to call:

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

or

**S.D. Military Counseling Project, 619-280-3586  
([www.sdmcp.org](http://www.sdmcp.org))**

## Contacts & Links:

[www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org)  
[www.war-times.org](http://www.war-times.org)  
[www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)  
[www.occupationwatch.org](http://www.occupationwatch.org)  
[www.activistsandiego.org](http://www.activistsandiego.org)  
[www.nccpj.org](http://www.nccpj.org)

Committee Opposed to  
Militarism & the Draft  
P.O. Box 15195  
San Diego, CA 92175  
619-265-1369  
[www.comdsd.org](http://www.comdsd.org)

Project on Youth &  
Non-Military Opportunities  
(Project YANO)  
P.O. Box 230157,  
Encinitas, CA 92023  
[www.projectyano.org](http://www.projectyano.org)

Peace Resource Center  
3850 Westgate Pl.  
San Diego, CA 92105  
619-263-9301  
[prcsandiego@igc.org](mailto:prcsandiego@igc.org)

Sponsored by the San Diego Coalition for Peace and Justice, November 2006  
Distribution inside schools by students is legal under  
Calif. Education Code Sec. 48907/48950.

## *The. U.S. Votes for Change, But...*

## *For Military Recruiters, It's Business as Usual*

**Even as** people in the U.S. voted overwhelmingly for a change in President Bush's Iraq war policy, and Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld is being replaced, the Pentagon is preparing plans to send entire National Guard brigades back to Iraq for a second tour of duty (*Los Angeles Times*, November 11, 2006). This plan is a sign that the U.S. military is stretched too thin to keep up with the worsening war situation.

**But re-mobilizing** the National Guard isn't the only method that the Pentagon has for finding more troops. It has invested heavily in recruiting high school students, assigning more recruiters and promising higher-sounding bonuses to some enlistees.

**You can expect** recruiters to be more and more aggressive, to say what they think they need to say in order to sign up new recruits. But they won't be able to tell you the "noble cause" that they are recruiting for: it's now clear that every reason given for starting the war was not true, and most Americans believe that it was a huge mistake and should be ended.



# For What Noble Cause?

**“The world is beginning to doubt the moral basis of our fight against terrorism”**

*- former Secretary of State Colin Powell*

*Letter to Sen. John McCain released September 14, 2006*

**Murder, torture, secret prisons**, hundreds of thousands of civilian deaths. Conclusive proof that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction, had no involvement with al Qaeda, had no connection to 9/11. Allowing treatment of prisoners in ways that the international community considers to be torture. Wire taps without warrant. Creating laws that would allow a person to be to be arrested, charged and tried without ever seeing the evidence against them. Even allowing a person to be put in prison indefinitely without ever being able to tell a judge that they have been imprisoned wrongly.

**No wonder** that people “doubt the moral basis of our fight against .”

**But it’s not** just the moral basis that’s in doubt. It’s the actual way that the “war” has been waged that is being questioned, too.

**U.S. reliance** on military force continues to fuel international opposition to its policies. In Iraq, U.S. troops increasingly are caught between a failing government, sectarian militias and multiple resistance factions.



**Iraq’s healthcare system was once the envy of the Middle East. Now, hospitals are so poorly equipped that, at one hospital alone, 5 patients die every day for lack of equipment to treat them properly.**

*LA Times, November 11, 2006*

## ***ABC News: Recruiters Mislead Students to Get Them to Enlist***

**An ABC News undercover investigation showed Army recruiters telling students that the war in Iraq was over in order to get them to enlist. A hidden camera caught one telling a student, “We’re not at war. War ended a long time ago.”**

*ABC News, November 3, 2006*

***Be on your guard. They really will say anything!***

## **Cost of War**

Wondering about money for college? So far, the U.S. has spent more than \$340 billion on the war in Iraq. That’s enough for over 16 million 4-year scholarships to public universities. San Diego County’s share is just over \$3.5 billion, or about 172,000 4-year scholarships. For more information, go to [www.costofwar.com](http://www.costofwar.com).

## **BEWARE OF THE ASVAB TEST IN YOUR SCHOOL**

Most high schools give a test called the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). This test is a military test that you do NOT have to take. But if you do take it, your personal information usually will be given to military recruiters EVEN IF YOU ASKED YOUR SCHOOL NOT TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME ON ANY STUDENT LISTS GIVEN TO THE MILITARY.



You have the right to refuse to take the ASVAB, just as other students have done. You can also share this information with other students and with your parents, and you can ask your school to give students the choice of doing something else during the test. For more information, contact Project YANO.