



# VETERANS FOR PEACE, INC.

## HUMBOLDT BAY CHAPTER 56

July 19, 2013

Post Office Box 532  
Bayside, CA 95524-0532

(707) 822-4975

VFP-56@aol.com

<http://www.vfp56.org>

### COORDINATING COMMITTEE

James Sorter, Secretary  
John Schaefer, Treasurer  
Robert Hepburn  
John Mulloy  
Stephen Sottong  
Stephen Stammes

### STANDING COMMITTEES

**Depleted Uranium / Weapons  
of Mass Destruction**

Peter Aronson, Chair

**Fund Raising / Events / Media**

Mashaw McGuinnis, Chair

**Veterans Education and  
Outreach Project**

Jon Reisdorf, Co-chair

Carl Stancil, Co-chair

**Veterans Service**

Mark Knipper, Chair

**General Store**

Douglas Smith, Chair

### Our Mission

*Veterans For Peace is a non-profit,  
501(c)(3) educational and humanitarian  
organization dedicated to the  
abolishment of war.*

### Statement of Purpose

*We, having dutifully served our nation,  
do hereby affirm our greater  
responsibility to serve the cause of world  
peace. To this end we will work, with  
others:*

- ▶ *To increase public awareness of the costs of war;*
- ▶ *To restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations;*
- ▶ *To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons;*
- ▶ *To seek justice for veterans and victims of war;*
- ▶ *To abolish war as an instrument of national policy.*

*To achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is both democratic and open with the understanding that all members are trusted to act in the best interests of the group for the larger purpose of world peace.*

Governor Jerry Brown  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

By a unanimous vote of the members present at our monthly membership meeting of Veterans for Peace, Chapter 56, Humboldt Bay, we support the hunger strike currently underway throughout the California State Prison system.

We endorse the prisoners' 5 demands:

1. End group punishment and administrative abuse.
2. Abolish the debriefing policy, and modify active gang status criteria.
3. Comply with the U.S. Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons 2006 recommendations regarding long-term solitary confinement.
4. Provide adequate and nutritious food.
5. Expand and provide constructive programs and privileges for individual SHU inmates.

Veterans for Peace is a global organization of military veterans and allies whose collective efforts are to build a culture of peace by using our experiences and lifting our voices. A culture of peace is at least as important at home as overseas and we call for the immediate end of the inhumane practices currently in use in CDCR Security Housing Units and other isolation units. We request guarantees that reprisals against peaceful hunger strikers not be taken.

We have 90 members in Chapter 56, Humboldt Bay, and 280 chapters throughout the U.S. The VFP is on record in opposition to torture as a tool at institutions from Guantanamo Bay to Abu Ghraib. We are equally opposed to torture being employed in the form of long-term solitary confinement in CDCR Security Housing Units and other isolation units.

Sincerely,

Don Swall

cc: Assembly Member Wes Chesbro

Senator Noreen Evans

Senator Leland Yee