

Welcome

Welcome to the “Voices of Conscience” conference, the first major academic conference ever held on military antiwar movements. Never before have scholarly and activist communities come together at a major academic institution to probe the impact of soldier and veterans’ antiwar movements and their importance for the strategy of peace.

This gathering is historic in another sense. It takes place 50 years after the Vietnam War, a war in which many of us fought and resisted, and 15 years since the invasion of Iraq when others of us spoke out for peace. We gather as the United States continues an endless “war on terror,” conducting combat support operations in 14 countries and launching air strikes in seven, all without constitutional authority and with few citizens aware or concerned.

We will address many vital questions during this conference. What was the role of the GI and veterans’ movement in helping bring an end to the U.S. war in Vietnam? How did the collapse of the armed forces affect the Pentagon’s ability to continue waging war? What was the relationship between the military and civilian antiwar movements? How was the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq affected by antiwar opposition? How did dissent within the ranks affect public opinion on ending the war in Vietnam? What can veterans and military service members do today to counter militarism and war and build support for peace?

The historic campaigns we examine in this conference are linked to the movements of today, especially to the students and community activists organizing against the scourge of gun violence in our schools and on our streets, just as we march to prevent war and armed violence abroad. We join hands with the movements of today in lifting up the voices of soldiers and veterans for justice and peace.



David Cortright

Director of Policy Studies and the Peace Accords Matrix
Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies
Keough School of Global Affairs
University of Notre Dame

Sponsors

This conference is made possible in part by support from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, the College of Arts and Letters, University of Notre Dame, and the Jubitz Family Foundation.

PROGRAM

Tuesday, May 22

10:00 a.m. **REGISTRATION** (The Forum, Jenkins Nanovic Halls)

OPTIONAL CAMPUS TOUR (Begins at the Kroc Institute offices, 1110 Jenkins Nanovic Halls)

BOOKSTORE SALE (10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Hesburgh Center Great Hall)

12:00 p.m. **LUNCH** (The Forum, Jenkins Nanovic Halls)

1:30 p.m. **OPENING PANEL: CONSCIENCE AND RESISTANCE FROM VIETNAM TO THE PRESENT**
(Hesburgh Center Auditorium)

WELCOME: David Cortright Director of Policy Studies, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

Susan Schnall Co-coordinator of the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign; Assistant Professor, New York University

Tran Xuan Thao Director of the War Remnants Museum, Ho Chi Minh City

Jonathan Hutto Author of *Antiwar Soldier*; organizer of Appeal for Redress against the Iraq War

Nathan Smith Recently retired army captain; plaintiff in lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of current military operations against ISIS

3:30 p.m. **BREAK** (Hesburgh Center Great Hall)

4:00 p.m. **KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE VIETNAM ANTIWAR MOVEMENT** (Hesburgh Center Auditorium)

WELCOME: Asher Kaufman John M. Regan Jr., Director, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

Christian Appy Professor of History, University of Massachusetts

Madame Ton-Nu-Thi Ninh President, Ho Chi Minh City Peace and Development Foundation

Michael Kazin Professor of History, Georgetown University

6:00 p.m. **RECEPTION** (The Forum, Jenkins Nanovic Halls)

6:30 p.m. **RECOGNITIONS** (The Forum, Jenkins Nanovic Halls)

The GI Press Project
Waging Peace Exhibit

7:15 p.m. **LITERARY READINGS** (Hesburgh Center Auditorium)

Bill Ehrhart Poet, writer, Vietnam veteran, author of *Vietnam-Perkasie: A Combat Marine Memoir*

Shoshanna Wingate Writer and textile artist

Roy Scranton Assistant Professor of English, University of Notre Dame; Faculty Fellow, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies; Iraq War veteran; author of *War Porn*

9:00 p.m. **SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW FILM SHOWING** (Hesburgh Center Auditorium)
"The Whistleblower of My Lai" (60 minutes)

Wednesday, May 23

- 8:30 a.m. **WORKSHOP PANELS** (Rooms 1030 and 1050 Jenkins Nanovic Halls. Doors will be labeled A, B, C.)
- A. **The GI Press: Voices of military dissent**
 - B. **GI coffeehouses and the civilian antiwar movement**
 - C. **Winter soldiers: The role and impact of Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW)**
- 11:00 a.m. **WORKSHOP PANELS** (Rooms 1030 and 1050 Jenkins Nanovic Halls. Doors will be labeled A, B, C.)
- A. **Issues of race, class and gender in resistance movements**
 - B. **Open the archives: Sharing the history of GI and veteran antiwar resistance**
 - C. **Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) and new military movements**
- 1:00 p.m. **LUNCHEON and REMARKS** (The Forum, Jenkins Nanovic Halls)
- WELCOME AND GREETING: R. Scott Appleby** Marilyn Keough Dean, Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame
- Atalia Omer, Moderator** Associate Professor of Religion, Conflict and Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame
- J.J. Johnson** Member of the "Ft. Hood Three;" former communications director SEIU Local 144 and AFSCME Local 1707
- Camilo Mejia** Iraq War conscientious objector; Author of *The Road From Ar-Ramadi*
- 3:30 p.m. **WORKSHOP PANELS** (Rooms 1030 and 1050 Jenkins Nanovic Halls. Doors will be labeled A, B, C, D)
- A. **Legal rights, conscientious objection and whistleblowing**
 - B. **Antiwar POWs**
 - C. **Resistance, restitution and moral injury**
 - D. **Measuring the 'combat effectiveness' of GI resistance**
- 5:30 p.m. **DINNER ON YOUR OWN**
- 7:30 p.m. **FILM SEGMENT SCREENINGS** (DeBartolo Performing Arts Center)
- Richard Herbst, Moderator** Cinema Program Director, Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, University of Notre Dame
- Barbara Kopple**, Segments from *Winter Soldier* and *Shelter*
- David Zeiger**, Segments from *Sir! No Sir!*
- Connie Field**, The making of *The Whistleblower of My Lai*
- 9:30 p.m. **ADJOURN**

Thursday, May 24

- 8:30 a.m. **CLOSING PLENARY PRESENTATIONS: IMPLICATIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR SCHOLARSHIP AND ANTIWAR STRATEGY** (Hesburgh Center Auditorium)
- Ann Mische, Moderator** Associate Professor of Sociology and Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame
- David Meyer** Professor of Sociology, University of California at Irvine
- Michael McPhearson** Executive Director, Veterans for Peace
- 10:00 a.m. **ROUNDTABLE: RESPONSES, COMMENTS** (Hesburgh Center Auditorium)
- Jose Vasquez** Former Executive Director, IVAW
- Lisa Leitz** Assistant Professor of Peace Studies, Chapman University
- David Cortright** Director of Policy Studies, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies
- 12:00 p.m. **ADJOURN**