



**IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR** ★ **IVAW.ORG**

## **IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR**

(IVAW) believes that Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve members of our Armed Forces should be part of the movement to:

- 1. Bring our comrades home now**
- 2. Support them upon their return**
- 3. Support Iraqi reconstruction**

### **I haven't been to Iraq. Can I join?**

Yes! Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) is open to anybody who has served in the military (Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve) since September 11, 2001. Military members who are currently serving can be guaranteed confidentiality.

### **I signed a contract. I can't join Iraq Veterans against the War.**

WRONG! Military regulations allow troops to engage in "local non partisan political activities." Joining IVAW is a non partisan political activity. What you can't join are organizations that advocate or engage in racial, gender, or ethnic hatred or organizations that advocate or use unlawful violence. See the "You Have These Rights" section on the next page for more info.

### **If I join IVAW, do I have to speak in public or go to demonstrations?**

No. You can participate as you wish. IVAW has movie screenings, closed meetings, BBQs, troop outreach events, and members can participate in peer counseling. Demonstrations and public speaking are only part of what we do.

### **I have friends in Iraq right now and I don't want to betray them.**

The businessmen, politicians, generals and admirals who sent our friends to Iraq are the ones who have betrayed all service members. IVAW supports the troops so that they come home alive, and are taken care of when they get home. It is our government that is sending troops into harm's way for no good reason.

### **I'm against the war but no one else in my unit feels the way I do.**

IVAW is designed to help you meet fellow service members who feel the way you do.

### **My chain of command says to stay away from IVAW.**

Your chain of command should check the regulations. They can't prohibit you from joining a lawful organization on your own time.

### **Do the right thing.**

There's a difference between doing something right and doing the right thing. Our military is fulfilling its call of duty and executing the mission. But that doesn't make the mission our government ordered us to do "right." Join IVAW and help bring our comrades home now. And when our comrades do get home, help give them the support they'll need and deserve.

## **YOU HAVE THESE RIGHTS**

### **YOU CAN JOIN IVAW**

Service members may participate in local nonpartisan political activities. IVAW does not participate in partisan political activities. But service members are not authorized to: (1) Wear a military uniform or use any government property when participating in a protest. (2) Allow participation in IVAW to interfere with, or prejudice, military duties. (3) Imply that the U.S Armed Forces has taken an official position on, or is otherwise involved in, the local political campaign or issue.

### **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO ATTEND PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS ON YOUR TIME**

This right is explained in Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 1325.6.

### **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY & WRITE (MOSTLY) WHAT YOU THINK.**

But there are some limits here. You can't call the President, Dick Cheney or other high government officials what article 88 of the UCMJ calls "contemptuous words." You can't subject to these and other limitations- write, publish, and distribute things like newspapers, leaflets, and web pages. It all has to be while you're off duty and without using military supplies.

### **WHEN YOUR COMMAND IGNORES THE RULES AND YOUR RIGHTS**

You don't have to be in the military long to find out that commands sometimes ignore the rules. There are several ways to challenge this sort of thing. Let your fellow troops know the deal. The other thing you can do is get support from organizations like IVAW, Veterans for Peace, Military Families Speak Out, or Gold Star Families for Peace. It always helps to have organizations that can mobilize people and media to back you up. Finally, you can complain through the IG, the chain of command, or get some legal assistance through a military counselor or an attorney who's familiar with military law or both.

### **USE IT OR LOSE IT**

Some advance preparation is the best way to use these rights; knowledge is power. And using your rights is important for you, for others caught in a bad war, and for all of us.