

Commission on Military, National and Public Service
2830 Crystal Drive, Suite 1000, Room 1029, Box #63

Arlington Va, 22202

Attn: RIFI COMMENT - Docket # 05-2018-01

Dear Commissioners:

We find the opportunity to respond to the Commission's request for public input on the matter of Military, National and Public Service an important moment. Our concern for the people of our country and the people of the world means this opportunity is not taken lightly. Our work as a group is dedicated to those without a voice; the oppressed, marginalized and endangered, wherever they may live.

We members of the Chicago Anti-War Coalition (CAWC) condemn the US Government covert/overt wars against numerous countries throughout the world. We support resistance to mandatory service, conscription, draft or any forced service to the Military, Government and associated networks, whether through individual "conscientious objection" or the "conscientious objection" of the will of the people. The abdication by Congress of its role to represent the people in the declaration of war, through the AUMF and resulting expansion of Executive power has irreparably violated the Rule of Law and the foundation of Democracy.

War is no longer understood by the people of the United States or people of the entire World as a defensive entity to maintain National Security. The world's people rightly understand, as did Smedley Butler, a US Marine Corps General and winner of two Medals of Honor who wrote in his book, War is a Racket (1935): "To summarize: Three steps must be taken to smash the war racket: We must take the profit out of war...We must permit the youth of the land who would bear arms to decide whether or not there should be war...We must limit our military forces to home defense purposes" (p 36,37). In 1961, President Eisenhower reminded us of the perils of the "Military Industrial Complex" in his Farewell Address (January, 1961).

We now have further evidence that **War is NOT the answer**....it never has been...it is the problem. Our greatest defensive need is the rescue of our threatened planet. We urgently need to establish a Department of Peace and Ecological Survival.

Patricia Hynes (retired professor of Environmental Health, Director of Traprock Center for Peace and Justice) presented the following declarations (climate and capitalism.com/2015/02/08/pentagon-pollution):

- "-The US Military is the world's biggest and most destructive polluter. Stopping the war machine is an essential part of saving the earth.
- The US Military generates more toxic waste than the 5 largest US chemical companies combined.
- The "war on terror" included massive federal funding for secret research on the most lethal bacteria and viruses with no known cure.
- During and after the Pentagon wars, land mines and cluster bombs kill and maim while blocking agriculture in the poorest regions."
- The use of depleted uranium weapons in the Balkans and Iraq has left a long term legacy of cancer and birth defects among civilians."

We also need to include examples from history of gratuitous Military violence that cannot be defended as part of our National Security:

- The firebombing of Dresden near the end of World War II
- The My Lai Massacre in Vietnam and other atrocities in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos

- the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- covert/illegal bombing of Cambodia
- Guantanamo and all black sites.... use of torture....abandonment of due process, ...human rights violations.
- Drone assassinations of citizens, including American citizens, in sovereign countries in undeclared wars without due process.

Once we realign our objectives to the global mutual need for survival and the reality of mutual obligation to protect and equitably share resources, we can realistically begin to discuss the issue of "service". Service will not be to a Military/Industrial/ETC hegemony but to Global Eco-Survival. The service of an individual will not be to provide profit to the Military/Industrial/Surveillance/Financial Complex. It will benefit human survival and perhaps, evolution of Humanity.

Submitted by:

Chicago Anti-War Coalition(CAWC)

Web-site:<https://www.Chi-AntiwarCoalition.org>

E-mail: ChicagoAntiwarCoalition@gmail.com

September 27, 2018