

# Conscientious Objector Counseling Project

## Why "Draft Counseling" When There Is No Draft?

The current draft registration process has no provision for allowing you to indicate you are a conscientious objector. As it stands now, if the draft is reestablished, the first opportunity you would have to establish such a claim is after receiving an induction notice. At that point you might have as little as 10 days to build a case. This provides little time to sort out and be able to articulate your beliefs, discover your legal rights, gather letters of reference, etc. It is important to think through your position, document your beliefs, demonstrate that your life style is consistent with those beliefs, and develop a network of information and support.

Other areas needing to be addressed **now** are educational efforts to counter the aggressive on-campus military recruitment, and counseling for those in the military who have had second thoughts.

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[During Easter week 2002 the Navy set up a Disneyland-style flight simulator in the Porterville Wal-Mart parking lot for a recruitment fair ("War Faire" as Bill Warner so aptly put it). We responded by setting up a booth with [counter-recruitment literature](#). To clarify my own thinking I wrote out my thoughts on [the rationale for opposing recruitment for a volunteer military](#).--David Chandler]

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## Links

- [CO.Quaker.org](#): A site created by former member David Chandler with the intent of helping people think through issues of war, peace, militarism, resistance, and conscientious objection
- [Official Selective Service Website](#) including [a fact sheet on conscientious objection](#).
- [GI Rights Hotline](#): **1-877-447-4487**  
The GI Rights Hotline provides accurate, helpful counseling and information on enlistment issues, military discharges, AWOL and UA, and GI Rights.
- [Center on Conscience and War \(CCW\)](#), (Formerly the National Interreligious Service Board for Conscientious Objectors); includes good discussion of the moral and practical issues facing conscientious objectors.

- [Fellowship of Reconciliation](#), a very active interfaith peace organization.
- [War Resisters League](#), "Believing war to be a crime against humanity, the War Resisters League, founded in 1923, advocates Gandhian nonviolence as the method for creating a democratic society free of war, racism, sexism, and human exploitation."
- [The Albert Einstein Institution](#), a nonprofit organization advancing the study and use of strategic nonviolent action in conflicts throughout the world.
- [Quaker Peace Page](#), a site maintained by Chuck Fager with writings of historical and contemporary Quakers on issues regarding the "Quaker Peace Testimony" and militarism.
- [American Friends Service Committee](#): "The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service." Pacifism is more than avoiding military service. It is actively working for peace and justice. The AFSC is involved in helping to build a more peaceful world.
- Henry David Thoreau's classic treatise, [Civil Disobedience](#). The occasion for writing was Thoreau's arrest for refusal to pay taxes that would go to support the Mexican War. This short piece is worthy of a slow, thoughtful read!