

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the undersigned veterans who have served our country in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the 1991 Gulf War and other military conflicts, respectfully request an opportunity to meet with you about the threat of war between the United States and Iraq.

Mr. President, we are patriotic citizens and veterans who respect the office of the President and the ethics and values binding us together as Americans.

As such, we feel duty-bound to share with you our serious concerns regarding issues of national security, the appropriate use of our military strength, and the health and welfare of our active duty soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines. Those of us who are veterans of the 1991 Gulf War can offer particular insight into the ongoing troubles in the Middle East, and the likely consequences of another war in that volatile region.

A dozen years ago, we helped liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, and in the course of combat operations came face to face with brutality and the consequences of modern warfare. We learned how unpredictable the nature of war can be. And we learned that war-related losses are not simply experienced on the battlefield.

Following the 1991 Gulf War, we collectively failed to prevent Saddam Hussein's violent repression of a popular uprising and the unprecedented refugee flight that ensued. As a result, tens of thousands of innocent civilians died. In addition to those deaths, the war and immediate post-war conditions resulted in the excess deaths of 46,900 children under the age of five, according to the *New England Journal of Medicine* (September 24, 1992).

Over the long term, the 1991 Gulf War has had a lasting, detrimental impact on the health of countless people in the region, and on the health of American men and women who served there. Twelve years after the conflict, over 164,000 American Gulf War veterans are now considered disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. That number increases daily.

The possibility of large-scale war between the U.S. and Iraq looms before us once again. For this urgent reason we would like to meet with you to discuss steps the United States and its allies can take to protect U.S. soldiers, allied forces, and Iraqi civilians from known and suspected hazards that would result from military operations.

We understand the risks that come with war and that there are times when such risks are necessary. However, we strongly question the need for a war at this time. Despite Secretary of State Colin Powell's report to the Security Council and the testimony of others in the administration, we are not convinced that coercive containment has failed, or that war has become necessary.

Our own intelligence agencies have consistently noted both the absence of an imminent threat from Iraq and reliable evidence of cooperation between Iraq and Al Qaeda. Again, we question whether this is the right time and the right war.

Further, we believe the risks involved in going to war, under the unclear and shifting circumstances that confront us today, are far greater than those faced in 1991. Instead of a desert war to liberate Kuwait, combat would likely involve protracted siege warfare, chaotic street-to-street fighting in Baghdad, and Iraqi civil conflict. If that

occurs, we fear our own nation and Iraq would both suffer casualties not witnessed since Vietnam. We fear the resulting carnage and humanitarian consequences would further devastate Iraqi society and inflame an already volatile Middle East, and increase terrorism against U.S. citizens.

Our concerns about the potential human and material costs of a military conflict in Iraq are well substantiated. In the event of a war, the UN warns that 1.26 million children under the age of 5 in Iraq will be at risk of death. Within the initial weeks of conflict, the World Health Organization estimates 500,000 Iraqis would need immediate medical attention. Ten million Iraqis would need immediate humanitarian assistance and over 2 million Iraqis would be made homeless.

The scale of the crisis would be so large that the international community would be unable to prevent widespread suffering. For these reasons and more, it remains in our nation's best interest to avoid another war. The risk of excessive civilian casualties like those predicted by the UN pose a grave risk to our national security, making the U.S. more of a target of retaliatory attacks by terrorists.

Mr. President, as our Commander-in-Chief, we recognize the immense responsibility you have to protect our homeland and keep our nation secure. As veterans who honorably served our nation in its wars, we believe that our perspectives, knowledge and expertise can aid you at this crucial time, as you continue to deliberate on whether or not to commit our nation to war.

We therefore request a meeting at your earliest possible convenience. We look forward to any opportunity to come together with you to discuss the matters we have raised.

Sincerely,

Vice Admiral Ralph Weymouth, USN, Retired
Vice Admiral Jack Shanahan, USN, Retired

Brigadier General Evelyn P. Foote, USA, Retired

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Lieutenant Colonel William R. Smith, USAF, Retired
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Commander Philip Butler, Ph.D., USN, Retired
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Commander Theodore I. Bahn, USN, Retired
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Lieutenant Commander John Paul Brennan, USMC, Retired
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Lieutenant Junior Grade John Ise Jr, USN
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Airman Aram Attarian II, USAF
Airman Cheryl Davis, USA
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Airman Irvan F. Adams, USAF
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Airman James J. Hogan, USAF
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Airman John Stephen Pielaszczyk, USAF
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Airman Joseph Wistar Huey III, USAF
Airman Lewis Kirk, USAF
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Airman Pedro Rivera, USAF
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Airman William H. Davis, USAF
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Aviation Ordnanceman 3/C John Howard Beam, USN
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Ensign roxy hills, USA
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Hospital Corpsman Thomas Richard Imboden, USN
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Lance Corporal Gary Akito Maehara, USMC
Lance Corporal Jerome Garger, USMC
Lance Corporal Roy Edward Stanford, USMC
Lance Corporal Thomas Melchior, USA
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Master Chief Petty Officer Larry Bucher, USN, Retired
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Master Sergeant Anthony M. D'Amato, USA, Retired
Master Sergeant Charlie Day, USAF, Retired
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Master Sergeant Linda Wilkins-Daniels, USAF, Retired
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Master Sergeant Mark D. Brooks, USAF, Retired
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Master Sergeant Scott W. Kirby, USAF, Retired
Master Sergeant Wilmar F. Bernthal, USA, Retired
Operations Specialist James Steven Clement, USN
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Petty Officer Craig Simpson, USN
Petty Officer Dan Onerheim, USN
Petty Officer Daniel Jacobson, USN
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Petty Officer David C. Smith, USN
Petty Officer David Ralph Travis, USN
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Petty Officer Donald Graves, USN
Petty Officer Dr. Roland von Huene, USN
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Seaman Dennis Ledden, USN
Seaman Edmund Keeley, USN
Seaman Edward R Daley, USCG
Seaman First Class Robert C. Holloway, USN
Seaman George Veronis, USN
Seaman Gerald P. Lenaghan, USN
Seaman gordon duggan, USN
Seaman Harold Howard Horn, USN
Seaman Hector Sosa, USN
Seaman Henry Douglas Johnson, USA
Seaman James F. Dargon, USN
Seaman Jim S. Cassell, USN, Retired
Seaman Nathaniel Paul Davis, USN
Seaman Richard I. Trenholm, USN
Seaman Richard Sidney Salmon, USN
Seaman Robert Edward Miller II, USN
Seaman Todd Boyle, USN
Seaman Vaughn N. Pol, USN
Seaman Warren L. Lewellyn, USN
Seaman William L. Crozier, USN
Seaman William Roberts Voorhies, USN
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Senior Airman Edward A. Waters, USAF
Senior Airman Eugene Thomas Giovanazzi , USAF
Senior Airman Gail E. Chandler, Ph.D., USAF
Senior Airman James J. Ramage, USAF
Senior Airman John Mark Jorgensen, USAF
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Senior Airman Neal C. Melton, USAF, Retired
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Senior Airman Vera Millar, USAF
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Sergeant Danny L. Shaw, USA
Sergeant David Kettenhofen, USAF
Sergeant Denise Lockren (Brinkman) Gathman, USMC
Sergeant Dennis M. Conboy, USA
Sergeant Edward P. Morrissey, USA
Sergeant Edwin B. Bergeson, USA
Sergeant Elton Duane Wilkerson, USAF
Sergeant Eugene W. Edinger Jr., USAF
Sergeant Fernando Cruz-Villalba, USA
Sergeant First Class Hugh W. Somerton, USA
Sergeant First Class Jason Lenox, USA, Retired
Sergeant First Class Kenneth C. Robinson, USA, Retired
Sergeant First Class Mark J. Bielanski, USA, Retired
Sergeant First Class Robert J. Roberts, USA
Sergeant First Class Timothy M. Williams, USA, Retired
Sergeant Francis D. Polley, USA
Sergeant Francis Peter Juranic, USAF
Sergeant Frank Pizzardi, USAF
Sergeant Fredy Champagne, USA
Sergeant Gary L. Thomas, USA
Sergeant Gerald Kennedy, USA
Sergeant Gilbert Charles Gordon Jr., USA
Sergeant Gregory Storm Cunningham, USA
Sergeant Harold Schwartz, USA
Sergeant Harry P. Brown, USA
Sergeant Henry I. Bornstein, USAF
Sergeant Henry Peterson, USA
Sergeant James A. Wilson, USA
Sergeant James Gordon Nelson, USA
Sergeant James Landrith, USMC
Sergeant James Otto Daubenberger III, USA
Sergeant Jerry D. Gilley, USAF
Sergeant Jerry Genesio, USMC
Sergeant Joe A. Blocher, USA
Sergeant John A. Keggler Junior, USA
Sergeant John DiFusco, USAF
Sergeant John Houlihan, USA
Sergeant John M Hubble, USAF
Sergeant John P. Haslinger, USAF
Sergeant John W. Covey, USAF
Sergeant Joseph A. Rosado, USAF
Sergeant Katherine I. Menges, USA
Sergeant Lawrence Joseph Griffin, USA, Retired
Sergeant Leona Maltz, USMC
Sergeant Lloyd Eugene Wagner, USAF
Sergeant Major Frank J. Rankins, USA, Retired
Sergeant Major Jerry (Roger) Ferragallo, USAF
Sergeant Marcus Jansen, USA, Retired

Sergeant Mark Douglas Ivey, USA
 Sergeant Mark Raymond Dongu, USA
 Sergeant Michael Antares, USA
 Sergeant Michael Antares, USAF
 Sergeant Michael Gerard McIntosh, USAF
 Sergeant Neil Stuart, USAF
 Sergeant Oliver V. Hines, USA
 Sergeant Orville O. Gilmore, USA
 Sergeant Paul Cox, USMC
 Sergeant Philip A. Prichard, USA
 Sergeant Ralph T. Conroy, USA
 Sergeant Raymond Bentman, USA
 Sergeant Raymond L. Strischek, USMC
 Sergeant Raymond Reed Hardy, USA
 Sergeant Rebecca S. McAlary, USA
 Sergeant Richard Beck Peacock, USMC, Retired
 Sergeant Richard Egenriether, USA
 Sergeant Richard Gillock, USMC
 Sergeant Richard L. Tradewell, USA
 Sergeant Richard S. Fye, USA
 Sergeant Rick Venturi, USAF
 Sergeant Robert A. Fischer, USA
 Sergeant Robert O. Shaw, USMC
 Sergeant Rodney James Owen, USA, Retired
 Sergeant Russell Scott Stoermer, USA
 Sergeant Sean Antonio Rosas, USA
 Sergeant Seth Pollack, USA
 Sergeant Stephen Constantine Demos, USMC
 Sergeant Steven Schauer, USAF
 Sergeant Susan K. Metheny, USAF
 Sergeant Theodore James Schapp, USA
 Sergeant Thomas Barnes, Jr., USA
 Sergeant Thomas D. Voigts, USAF
 Sergeant Timothy D. Lord, USAF
 Sergeant Timothy R. Mc Grady, USA
 Sergeant Victoria J. D. Lewis, USAF
 Sergeant William C. Watson, USAF
 Sergeant William D. Hoffman, USA
 Sergeant William Joseph Appel, USAF
 Sergeant William Max Hooks, USAF
 Sergeant William Robert Smiddie, USA
 SP-5 E-5 Garreth L. Sanders, USA
 Specialist 3 Ralph Conrad Hohneke, USA, Retired
 Specialist 4 Winson C. Hinkle, USA
 Specialist 4th Class George P. Russell, USA
 Specialist 5 Bernstein, Simon L., USA
 Specialist 5th Class Thomas J. Worrell, USA
 Specialist Al Knickerbocker, USA
 Specialist Albert R. Kallock Jr., USA
 Specialist Anthony Lawrence Aiello, Jr, USA
 Specialist Arthur Lisciandro, USA
 Specialist Barry Warren Riesch, USA
 Specialist Bernard L. Edelman, USA
 Specialist Bertus E. Nederlof, USA
 Specialist Betty Read Scott, USN
 Specialist Blaine C. Gaustad, USA
 Specialist Brian M. Davis, USA
 Specialist Bruce Day Macdonald, USA
 Specialist Byron A. Metcalf, USA
 Specialist Candy Sweet Lovett, USA, Retired
 Specialist Carl B. Courtmier, USA
 Specialist Charles Marsh, USA
 Specialist Charles Naef, USA
 Specialist Christian J. Arnold, USA
 Specialist Christopher Michael Turner, USA
 Specialist Christopher T. Lavone, USA
 Specialist Clark Buffington Lohr, USA
 Specialist Clyda M. Jackson, USA
 Specialist Constance Mantini, USA
 Specialist Dahrl H. Bartlett, USA
 Specialist Dan Gomez, USA
 Specialist Daniel Pourkesali, USA, Retired
 Specialist David A. Kissrling, USA
 Specialist David Jon Damstrom, USA
 Specialist David L. Curley, USA
 Specialist David Maxwell Young, USA
 Specialist David O. Depker, USA
 Specialist David Ray Roop, USA
 Specialist Dennis A. Good, USA
 Specialist Dennis Leslie Storm, USA
 Specialist Desmond P. Glynn, USA
 Specialist Donna Barr, USA
 Specialist Douglas M. Troutman, USA
 Specialist Douglas Ward, USA, Retired
 Specialist Dwayne Knox, USA
 Specialist Edward Mikel, USA
 Specialist Edwin G. Bergmann, USA
 Specialist Fifth Class Richard E. Klosterman, USA
 Specialist Five Patrice Titterington, USA
 Specialist Floyd Striegel, USA
 Specialist Frank Griglonis, USA
 Specialist Frank Zinno, USA
 Specialist Fred M. Donner, Ph.D., USA
 Specialist Frederic Morrison, USA
 Specialist Gary A. Chipman, USA
 Specialist Gary Horne, USA
 Specialist Gary L. Davis, USA
 Specialist Gary P. Novosielski, USA
 Specialist Gary Scharck, USA
 Specialist George F. Gladis, USA
 Specialist George John Asimos, USA
 Specialist George P. Seaman, USA
 Specialist Gerald R. Perdue, USA
 Specialist Giovanni Vassallo, USA
 Specialist Ivory Leondias Shortt, USN
 Specialist J. Clayson Dennis, USA
 Specialist James Gregory Sutherland, USA
 Specialist James LaFate Griffin, USA
 Specialist James Twomey, USA
 Specialist James W. Amato Jr., USA
 Specialist James Welms, USA
 Specialist Jan E. Smith, USA
 Specialist Jeffrey Herman, USA
 Specialist Jeffrey Lawrence Bauman, USA
 Specialist Jimmy Dwain Parks, Ph.D., USA
 Specialist Joe Carlos Aguirre, USA

Specialist John Harry Shockley, USA
Specialist John J. Gee, USA
Specialist John K. Jessup Jr., USA
Specialist John Lawrence, USA
Specialist John M West, USA
Specialist John Russell Storbeck, USA
Specialist John T. Hughes Jr., USA
Specialist Jon H. Larimore, USA
Specialist Joseph C. Galbreath, USA
Specialist Joseph Cassidy, USA
Specialist Joseph J. Cieplak, USA
Specialist Karen Rytlewski, USA
Specialist Kenneth Edward Nelson, USA
Specialist Kenneth James Dawe, USA
Specialist Kenneth Martin Stevenson III, USA
Specialist Kenneth R. Smith, USA
Specialist Kenneth R. Smith, USA
Specialist Leanne Senter-Barbour, USA
Specialist Leanne Senter-Barbour, USA
Specialist Les Dabney, USA
Specialist Malcolm Brown, USA
Specialist Martin Ray Mills, USA
Specialist Matthew Charles Plummer, USA
Specialist Merri Elizabeth Keeton, USA
Specialist Michael Alan Fox, USA
Specialist Michael Baxter, USA
Specialist Michael C. Lund, USA
Specialist Michael Earl Baker, USA
Specialist Michael Edwin Crider, USA
Specialist Michael F. Zello, USA
Specialist Michael Lawrence Job, USA
Specialist Mike Budd, USA
Specialist Neil David Harrison, USA
Specialist Nikki Coyote, USA
Specialist Owen Berio, USA
Specialist Patricia A. Oliver, USA
Specialist Patrick Joseph Gilligan, USA
Specialist Paul B. Cumpian, USA, Retired
Specialist Paul Campbell Imrie, USA, Retired
Specialist Philip Edward Dynan, USA
Specialist Ralph Chandler Daniels II, USA
Specialist Ralph E. Manon, USA
Specialist Richard Adams Lyon, USA
Specialist Richard Graham Crierie Jr., USA
Specialist Richard J. Bourgeois, USA
Specialist Richard R. Wall (now Richard W. Frieden), USA
Specialist Richard Stuart, USA, Retired
Specialist Robert A. Gould, USA
Specialist Robert E Hebrank, USA
Specialist Robert Hammers Stagg, USA
Specialist Robert Layton, USA, Retired
Specialist Robert McNulty, USA
Specialist Robert Samson Bloch, USA, Retired
Specialist Robert W. Reilly, USA
Specialist t Rodger A. Herbst, USA
Specialist Roger J. Nittler, USA
Specialist Ronald Edmund Ambes, USA
Specialist Russel Hickman, USA

Specialist Samuel William French, USN, Retired
Specialist Stephen Arnold Martin, USA
Specialist Stephen Christopher Jacobs, USA
Specialist Stephen D Purnell, USA
Specialist Steve Tudisco, USA
Specialist Steven Andrew Black, USA
Specialist Terence M. Lenaghan, USA
Specialist Theodore W. Ketcham, USA
Specialist Thomas Cederquist, USA
Specialist Toby Tahja-Syrett, USA
Specialist Tom Gibson, USA
Specialist Troy Thomas Heikkala, USA
Specialist Wallace Woolfenden, USA
Specialist William H Marchant, USA
Specialist William H Miller, USA
Specialist William J. McManus, USA
Specialist William Monroe Campbell, USA
Specialist William R Wofford, USA
Specialist William Rivera, USA
Specialist Zbynek Hakos, USA
Staff Sergeant Arthur O. Washburn, USAF
Staff Sergeant Arthur S. Johnson, III, USAF
Staff Sergeant Brad Walden, USA
Staff Sergeant Carroll R. Thomas, USA
Staff Sergeant Daniel W. Warvi, USA
Staff Sergeant David T. Gray, USAF
Staff Sergeant David Zapsky, USAF
Staff Sergeant Gary E Kelly, USA
Staff Sergeant Gatch N. Maxey , USAF
Staff Sergeant Harold A. Schiffman, USA
Staff Sergeant Henry Beverly, USA
Staff Sergeant Jeremy Otis, USA
Staff Sergeant Jimmie L. Wright, USAF
Staff Sergeant John C. Salzsieder, USA
Staff Sergeant John Edward Niemi, USA
Staff Sergeant John H. Redue, Jr, USAF
Staff Sergeant John Lischalk, USA
Staff Sergeant John Olaf Frakie, USAF
Staff Sergeant John V. Chambers, USAF
Staff Sergeant Joseph Clarke Van Dine, USAF
Staff Sergeant Kathleen May Alley, USAF
Staff Sergeant Kevin Bokay, USA, Retired
Staff Sergeant Marcell Norbert Benoit, USAF
Staff Sergeant Mary Ann Parker, USAF
Staff Sergeant Millard Vincent Turner, USAF
Staff Sergeant Philip Bradford Cobb, USAF
Staff Sergeant Philip D. Yarter, USAF
Staff Sergeant Randall Richard Platt, USA
Staff Sergeant Raymond LeRoy Ensley, USAF
Staff Sergeant Robert D. Pilkey, USAF
Staff Sergeant Rollin Lind, USA
Staff Sergeant Russell W. Thompson, USAF
Staff Sergeant Ruth M. Saffry, USA, Retired
Staff Sergeant Sharon Haller, USAF
Staff Sergeant Stanley J. Bass, USAF
Staff Sergeant Terry Gabrich, USA, Retired
Staff Sergeant Thomas Nuzum, USAF
Staff Sergeant Thomas Richard Judd, USAF

Staff Sergeant William Cody Reynolds, Jr., USA
Staff Sergeant William Stanwood, USAF
Technical Sergeant Bill O'Neil, USA
Technical Sergeant Daniel D. Scarlett, USA
Technical Sergeant Douglas Lloyd Perrin, USA
Technical Sergeant Eliot Freidson, USA
Technical Sergeant Gayle E. Woodul, USAF
Technical Sergeant George J. Feigenbaum, USAF, Retired
Technical Sergeant Harvey Wheeler, USA, Retired
Technical Sergeant Joseph C. Behm, USA
Technical Sergeant Joseph J. Needleman, USA
Technical Sergeant Joseph J. Perlongo, USA
Technical Sergeant Richard T. Nordland, USAF
Technical Sergeant Robert L. Bloch, USAF
Technical Sergeant Robert S. Frederick, USA

Technical Sergeant Stephen H. Eddy, USAF
Technical Sergeant Steven Albert Beatty, USAF
Technician Fifth Class Elihu Edelson, USA
Technician Fifth Grade Paul Rogers Barstow, USA
Warrant Officer III Lavelle Amos Ormsbee, USA

Specialist Charles Sheehan-Miles, USA
Specialist Erik Gustafson, USA
Ensign Daniel Fahey, USN
Sergeant Erin Cole, USA
Lieutenant Barry Romo, USA
Private First Class John Zutz, USA
Private First Class David Cline, USA
Airman First Class Woody Powell, USAF