

To all my friends who also face the threat of induction:

Today we all face the biggest threat to our individuality and world peace. The Armed Forces breathes down our necks asking us to die for them and their cause. Why do they demand that we must fight with our lives against the poor people of the world and our own nation in order to save their own lives? And what is it like to be a part of the Armed Forces, a herd of mass conformers?

A marine wrote that: "when entering any military organization be prepared to be intimidated. The basic reasoning behind this is sound. Tear a person down, destroy his individuality, and your chances for molding him to your liking are increased. In the military it's a battle for the control of your mind. Immediately upon induction the individual is placed in a semi-suspended condition. Half-conscious, half-unconscious. While in this ambivalent state keep your cool. Don't blow it or get up tight. When you panic, you suffer. Stay loose. Baby, they want you to blow your cool. The only way they can get through to you is by keeping you off balance, out of it. I was inducted in January 1966, and it was just my luck to be inducted by the Marines. I couldn't dodge the draft since my parents put some pressure on me. I was foolish for not stating my beliefs at the time of induction. I just let it take me. So here I am. Some people have to go through so they can get out and tell everybody just what is happening."

This Marine gives us the view from the inside. A view that shows us what it's like to be stripped of every trace of individuality and what it's like to have one's mind constantly being bombarded by the demand of mass conformity, a conformity that also tells us who are our friends and our enemies. But who are these "enemies" they ask us to kill?

We are told that a Sacred Agreement with the people of Vietnam defines our enemies. This is nonsense. If the Vietnamese people really wanted us there, why is it that the army of South Vietnam is powerless and demoralized? Did you know that in 1966 over 115,000 soldiers deserted from this "army"? How could the Vietnamese guerillas be anything but freedom fighters seeking the end to foreign domination and the establishment of their own way of life when we consider that these same people fought and defeated the Japanese and the French? Remember that the North Vietnamese have been able to rebuild almost every dam, bridge, and factory the U.S. has blown up and that their economy is still more productive than the U.S. controlled South Vietnamese economy. Also almost the entire South Vietnamese population gives assistance to the "Viet Cong" in one way or another. Or how else could it be that missiles were carried through South Vietnam and erected 6 miles from the Da Nang Air Base to which they did \$48 million worth of damages to U.S. planes and equipment? Are these Vietnamese really our enemies? If you think they are then just think about who the people are that told you so.

You may say that maybe they won't ask you to go to Vietnam, but so what? You may be asked to shoot down poor people in one of our big cities. Could you kill some of our own brothers because they are "looters", while our wealthier "citizens" make millions off of poverty and war? The looters in the streets, unlike the looters in our big military firms, are just like all of us who are part of the new generation of American youth only maybe a little darker in color, a little hungrier, and a little more fed up with our racist society.

No matter whether you get your deferment, or refuse induction, or go into the army, you have your own mind. Keep it free from the mass conformity and the brain-washing of the Army. To kill the people the Army demands is to kill the freedom and the way of life we and the patriots who fought in the first American Revolution dreamed of. Remember where your own mind is and at whom your gun is pointing. Thanks,

Alan Schmidt