



## 2015 Convention Resolutions

**Resolution 2015-01:** Support Of The Toxic Exposure Research Act Of 2015 - S.2738 & H.R.5484

*Passed (Yes: 776, No: 4)*

**Resolution 2015-02:** Veterans For Peace Support For San Carlos Apache Occupation Of Oak Flat, Arizona

*Passed (Yes: 756, No: 20)*

**Resolution 2015-03:** Stop All Foreign Intervention In Syria

*Passed (Yes: 701, No: 69)*

**Resolution 2015-04:** Withdraw All NATO Forces from the Russian Borders

*Passed (Yes: 696, No: 61)*

**Resolution 2015 – 05: Peace At Home, Peace Abroad** (*WITHDRAWN*)

**Resolution 2015-06:** Okinawa "Bridge of Nations" Asia-Pacific Pivot For Pacific Peace & Reconciliation

*Failed (Yes: 173, No: 530)*

**Resolution 2015-07:** U.S. Military Test of Anthrax in South Korea

*Passed (Yes: 665, No: 59)*

**Resolution 2015-08:** Veterans For Peace Should Have No Relationship With USAID

*Failed (Yes: 282, No: 456)*

**Resolution 2015-09:** Resolution for Responses to 2014-15 Israeli Aggression

*Passed (Yes: 750, No: 15)*

**Resolution 2015-10:** Resolution On Humanitarian Response To The Economic Crisis in Gaza

*Passed (Yes: 715, No: 21)*

**Resolution 2015-11:** 2015 VFP Resolution for Normalization of US Relations With Iran

*Failed (Yes: 262, No: 460)*

**Resolution 2015-01: Support Of The Toxic Exposure Research Act Of 2015 - S.2738 & H.R.5484**

*Passed (Yes: 776, No: 4)*

Whereas, the children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans are suffering the effects of Agent Orange, and

Whereas, the children Gulf War Veterans are suffering with many of the illnesses as their veteran parents, and

Whereas, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have been exposed to depleted uranium and burn pits, and

Whereas, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Marines and their families were exposed to contaminated water from 1953-1985, and

Whereas, the Army soldiers and their families living at Ft. McClellan, (Anniston) Alabama were exposed to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the Monsanto plant from 1933-1999, and

Whereas, 130 stateside military bases have been declared EPA Superfund clean-up sites. To date none have been cleaned up, and

Whereas, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 would create a National Center VA Medical Facility for research into the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of descendants of service-members exposed to toxic substances during their time in the military.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace supports enacting this legislation to corroborate scientific evidence and studies to substantiate veterans compensation claims and treat medically their offspring.

Be It Further Resolved that VFP members are urged to call their Senators and Representatives to support this legislation.

*Submitted by Aaron Davis – VFP Chapter 75*

*Endorsed by VFP Chapter 75*

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**Resolution 2015-02: Veterans For Peace Support For San Carlos Apache Occupation Of Oak Flat, Arizona**

*Passed (Yes: 756, No: 20)*

Whereas, Arizona Senators John McCain and Jeff Flake (former lobbyist for Rio Tinto - a British- Australian multinational metals and mining corporation) inserted a rider into the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) on December 2, 2014 titled Southeast Arizona Land Exchange S.1847, and

Whereas, the land swap conducted without proper hearings and debate, gave 2,422 acres of sacred San Carlos Apache land to Resolution Copper/Rio Tinto for copper mining, and  
Whereas, these lands were given to the Apache by treaty in 1871 and further protected by the National Historic Preservation Act 1966, and

Whereas, Rio Tinto plans a 7,000 foot deep automated underground mine with a surface crater 1,000 feet deep and 2 miles wide, and

Whereas, the planned toxic tailings pile will reach 500 feet covering 7,000 acres polluting the ground with lead, mercury, arsenic, uranium and radon gas, which are toxic for animals and people, and

Whereas, the San Carlos Apache people have occupied Oak Flat campground since February, and vowed not to leave their sacred land.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace supports the occupation of Oak Flat campground.

Be It Further Resolved VFP members are asked to support marches, protests, and ceremonies of the San Carlos Apache people.

*Submitted by Aaron Davis – VFP Chapter 75*

*Endorsed by VFP Chapter 75*

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## **Resolution 2015-03: Stop All Foreign Intervention In Syria**

*Passed (Yes: 701, No: 69)*

Whereas, the U.S. has initiated several unnecessary wars resulting in the futile loss of lives and permanent injuries to innumerable American troops and their families, and

Whereas, the crisis in Syria has entered its fifth year, causing the death and injury of possibly half a million Syrians, and

Whereas, the number of dislocated and refugee Syrians has reached close to a third of its population, and

Whereas, the U.S. and its allies are heavily and publicly involved in funding and supporting extremist and terrorist groups in Syria, and

Whereas, the U.S. Administration's declared policy of regime change in Syria ("Assad must go") is in violation of international law and has been facing one failure after another, and

Whereas, the active support of the United States and its allies for the armed opposition in Syria has resulted in increasing violence and bloodshed, and in strengthening the hands of extremists and terrorist groups, and

Whereas, only the sovereign people of Syria have the right to decide on the nature of their government and their political system, free of all forms of foreign intervention.

Therefore, we, Veterans For Peace, hereby resolve:

- The U.S. must immediately abandon its policy of regime change in Syria;
- The U.S. must immediately cease all its direct and indirect, overt and covert, support, arming, financing and enabling of all militants in Syria, and exert all types of pressure on its allies, especially Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey and Israel, to do the same;
- The U.S. must positively press for dialogue and a peaceful solution for the Syrian crisis, a process that is directed and executed fully on the basis of the sovereign and free will of the Syrian people themselves.

*Submitted by Faraz Azad*

*Chair, Iran Working Group - Veterans For Peace*

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## **Resolution 2015-04: Withdraw All NATO Forces from the Russian Borders**

*Passed (Yes: 696, No: 61)*

Whereas, the recent conflict in Ukraine, provoked by NATO's and the European Union's aggressive expansion into Eastern Europe, has escalated into a dangerous confrontation between the U.S. and its NATO allies on the one hand and, and Russia, on the other, and

Whereas, the tensions engendered by this confrontation have been intensified vastly by the brandishing of nuclear arms by both sides, and

Whereas, the U.S. and NATO are step by step regressing back to their Cold War policy toward Russia, and

Whereas, the escalating confrontation between the two major nuclear states seriously endangers world peace, with the potential of ending in a catastrophic nuclear confrontation.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace calls for:

No further US/NATO military assistance to Ukraine, whether arms, advisors, or "nonlethal" aid;

- Removal of all NATO forces from the Russian borders and reversal of NATO decisions to expand rapid reaction forces and supporting infrastructure in Eastern Europe, and particularly in states bordering Russia;
- A moratorium on military exercises by all parties in and around Ukraine and European states bordering Russia;
- A moratorium on exercises and tests of nuclear-armed forces world-wide in order to reduce tensions and risks of accidental nuclear war;
- Termination of all plans for NATO expansion and deployment of ballistic missile defenses in Europe;
- Intensive diplomatic efforts by the U.S. Government to reverse the deteriorating U.S. relationship with Russia, and, to this end, withdrawal of its nuclear weapons from Europe.

*Submitted by Faraz Azad*

*Chair, Iran Working Group - Veterans For Peace*

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**Resolution 2015-06: Okinawa "Bridge of Nations" Asia-Pacific Pivot For Pacific Peace & Reconciliation**

*Failed (Yes: 173, No: 530)*

Whereas, Veterans For Peace is particularly disturbed by the U.S. attempt to build a massive new U.S. Marine air base with a military port at Henoko and continued operations at MCAS Futenma (labeled "the most dangerous in the world" by Donald Rumsfeld), and

Whereas, not only would the Henoko base be an environmental disaster—the location is rich in bio-diversity and is home to the endangered marine mammal dugong, and

Whereas, we are deeply concerned about, and oppose construction of, a new U.S. military base within Okinawa. We stand in total solidarity with the people of Okinawa in their long struggle for peace, dignity, human rights, and protection of the environment, and

Whereas, "Bankoku Shinryo" meaning "Bridge between Nations," is named after a phrase carved on the large bell at Shuri Castle. Since the 14th century, the Ryukyu Kingdom strived to promote cultural exchange through trade with China and Southeast Asia.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace match President Obama's "Pacific Pivot" with an "Asia-Pacific Pivot for Peace & Reconciliation" centered in Okinawa as a "Cornerstone of Peace" towards a sustainable 22nd Century with actions perhaps based on a May 27, 2015 letter from the VFP President to the Governor of the Okinawa Prefecture - <http://www.veteransforpeace.org/pressroom/news/2015/06/02/vfp-members-present-lettergovernor-onaga-opposing-us-base-e>

Be It Further Resolved that "The cry of the people of Okinawa must ring loudly all across America—and we will do our part to make the voices of the Okinawan people heard," to uphold democratic principals, stop construction of Henoko, stop operations at MCAS Futenma. Be It Further Resolved that the "Bankoku Shinryo" meaning "Bridge between Nations" be adopted as a symbol for this pivot of peace.

Let freedom ring from Havana to Henoko!

*Submitted by Eduardo Heinrich-Sanchez - VFP Okinawa-Ryukyu Islands Chapter (#976)  
Organizing Committee*

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## **Resolution 2015-07: U.S. Military Test of Anthrax in South Korea**

*Passed (Yes: 665, No: 59)*

Whereas, an Army lab at Dugway Proving Ground in Utah shipped samples of live anthrax “inadvertently” to “a military lab in Maryland” on April 30, 2015, and “from there they were shipped via a commercial shipper” to the Osan Air Base of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) and 18 research labs in nine states in the U.S.,

Whereas, the Osan Air Base announced on May 27, 2015 that “twenty-two personnel may have been exposed” to the anthrax “during the training event,”

Whereas, the reckless shipment to Korea was part of the USFK’s bio-chemical test program called “JUPITR,” which was run by the USFK labs at Osan, Yongsan, Gunsan, and Pyeongtaek bases,

Whereas, anthrax was one of the bacterial agents used in the U.S. germ bombs dropped on North Korea (DPRK) during the Korean War, according to “Dirty Little Secrets,” Al Jazeera, 4/4/2010,

Whereas, the U.S., ROK, and DPRK are now all parties to the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention and the 1925 Geneva Protocol prohibiting the use of biological weapons,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Veterans For Peace (VFP), meeting at its national convention in San Diego, California on August 8, 2015:

- 1) Condemns the U.S. shipment of live anthrax to the Osan Air base in Korea;
- 2) Calls upon the Congress to investigate the anthrax scandal and the dangerous JUPITR program;
- 3) Calls upon the U.S. administration to stop the JUPITR program immediately and strictly abide by the international treaties banning the use and development of biological weapons;
- 4) Urges VFP chapters and members to send a copy of this resolution to their respective members of the Congress.

*Submitted by John Kim – Coordinator - VFP-Korea Peace Campaign*

*kpc@veteransforpeace.org*

*Sponsored by VFP-Korea Peace Campaign project and VFP Chapters 34 and 162*

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## **Resolution 2015-08: Veterans For Peace Should Have No Relationship With USAID**

*Failed (Yes: 282, No: 456)*

Whereas, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has, since its inception in 1961, conducted many covert operations in the furtherance of U.S. foreign policy objectives, and

Whereas, USAID covert operations have included the provision of training in torture techniques to the police forces of repressive South American regimes; the provision of funds to opposition groups seeking to overthrow governments not to the liking of U.S. elites; and the misuse of apparently benign aid and education programs for the recruitment of spies, and

Whereas, USAID is an arm of the U.S. State Department, with which it shares a mission statement to pursue so-called U.S. interests around the globe, and has been known to work closely with the CIA, and

Whereas, USAID has a well-deserved reputation for corruption and ineffective programs, and Whereas, the VFP Statement of Purpose calls on us to “To restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations.”, and

Whereas, despite all of the above, the Board of Directors of Veterans For Peace is considering entering into a contract with USAID in order to serve as a 501(c)3 fiscal sponsor for a project in Vietnam intended to alleviate the suffering of Agent Orange disabled persons and their families, and

Whereas, U.S. aid to Vietnam at this moment is being given in the context of the so-called Pivot to Asia, wherein the U.S. is seeking to build a regional military alliance against China, and Whereas, Veterans For Peace is an international veterans peace organization and wishes to maintain our credibility, while providing a good example to the movement for peace and justice.

Therefore It Be Resolved, that the membership of Veterans For Peace is absolutely opposed to VFP having any relationship whatsoever with USAID.

*Submitted by Gerry Condon, Veteran Member, National Board Vice President*

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**Resolution 2015-09: Resolution for Responses to 2014-15 Israeli Aggression**  
*Passed (Yes: 750, No: 15)*

Whereas, Israel has repeatedly attacked and destroyed Palestinian properties in Gaza where vast infrastructure vital to normal everyday life was destroyed in the 2014 attack known as “Operation Protective Edge”, and

Whereas, Israel rejects responsibility for reconstruction efforts and blocks import of many necessary building materials into Gaza, and

Whereas, Israel has once again committed piracy on the high seas to prevent volunteer aid from reaching Gaza, using American weapons that have previously been used to abduct American citizens in international waters, and

Whereas, VFP recalls President Thomas Jefferson’s 1801 naval intervention to protect American vessels from Barbary pirates and notes the U.S. Navy’s current mission for “deterring, disrupting and suppressing piracy”, and

Whereas, Article 87(a) of the UN Convention on the Laws of the Seas provides for general freedom of navigation on the high seas, and Article 88 states: “The high seas shall be reserved for peaceful purposes.” Article 89 states: “No State may validly purport to subject any part of the high seas to its sovereignty.”, and

Whereas, VFP recalls the shameful silence of the U.S. government both in 2008 when former U.S. presidential candidate Cynthia McKinney was abducted and imprisoned and in 2010 when US citizen Furkan Dogan was murdered in international waters by Israel.

Therefore Be It Resolved that VFP urges the US government to:

- Divert all foreign aid for Israel to rebuilding Gaza and restoring damaged or destroyed Palestinian properties until restoration is fully completed;
- Withhold all military aid to Israel under the Arms Export Control Act, which prohibits US weapons sales to countries using these to attack civilians;
- Provide Naval escort to all future US-flagged vessels or vessels with American passengers or crew to Gaza;
- Refer any future piracy, abduction, assault and/or imprisonment of American citizens on the high seas to the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

*Submitted by Jack Dresser - VFP Working Group On Palestine And The Middle East*

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## **Resolution 2015-10: Resolution On Humanitarian Response To The Economic Crisis in Gaza**

*Passed (Yes: 715, No: 21)*

Whereas, Gaza is home to 1.8 million stateless Palestinians, some 80% of whom are refugees from Israel's 1948 and 1967 wars, and remains "occupied" by United Nations criteria of "effective control" despite Israel's 2005 "disengagement" from Gaza, and

Whereas, since 2007 Israel has maintained a land, sea, and air blockade defined by the ICRC as "collective punishment" violating international law, including: controlling all access by persons and goods; maintaining primary control of Gaza's water supply, electricity, and access to the electromagnetic grid; and limiting Gazan access to the sea and to large tracts of arable land, and

Whereas, three major attacks by Israel on Gaza since 2008 in alleged retaliation for ineffectual rocket attacks by the military wing of Hamas – that are in fact responses to Israeli attacks – have devastated entire neighborhoods and infrastructure in Gaza, and killed more than 3,500 residents, and

Whereas, the May 2015 World Bank economic update described Gaza's economy as "on the verge of collapse," stating that Gazans lack access to social services and health protective infrastructure such as electricity, water and sewerage, with standard-of-living measures below 1990s levels, described as "intolerable" by former US President Jimmy Carter, and

Whereas, the Israeli government has denied a humanitarian crisis in Gaza and states there is no closure, and no progress toward a resolution of the economic crisis in Gaza is likely without significant engagement by the United States.

Therefore Be It Resolved that Veterans For Peace strongly encourages the U.S. government to take a leading role unilaterally, through U.N. agencies and increased humanitarian assistance to NGOs working in Gaza to alleviate the economic crisis in Gaza and to end the land, sea, and air interdiction of persons and material needed to reconstruct the infrastructure of Gaza and reinvigorate its economy.

*Submitted by Jack Dresser - VFP Working Group On Palestine And The Middle East*

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## **Resolution 2015-11: 2015 VFP Resolution for Normalization of US Relations With Iran**

*Failed (Yes: 262, No: 460)*

Whereas, Iran signed treaties repudiating the possession of Biological and Chemical Weapons, signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and allowed numerous nuclear inspections,

Whereas, the US Government overthrew Iran's democratically elected government in 1953; installed the Shah's 26-year dictatorship; supported Iraq President Saddam Hussein's 8-year war against Iran which killed at least 300,000 Iranians; shot down Iran Air Flight 655 in Iranian air space in 1988 killing 290 passengers; and has imposed trade and economic sanctions against Iran since 1979, and

Whereas, a hypocritical double standard is evident when the US Government punishes Iran – a nation that has not attacked or invaded another country in 200 years – for nuclear weapons it doesn't possess while subsidizing Israel with billions of dollars of military aid annually although: Israel possesses an estimated 100 to 400 nuclear warheads (per Jayne's Defense Weekly); has long range Jericho missiles to deliver them; has attacked at least nine nations since 1967; has a nuclear second strike capability in five+ Dolphin class submarines modified to launch nuclear capable cruise missiles; has never signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty or allowed inspection of its nuclear facilities; and has repeatedly threatened to attack Iran, and

Whereas, American history of sabotage of the 1954 Southeast Asia Geneva Accords, the 1980s Contadora peace talks, the 1999 Yugoslavia peace talks and recent Syrian peace talks, suggests that the current nuclear "talks" are as likely intended to establish a justification for war and/or regime change as to make peace, and

Whereas, Article 2(4) of the UN Charter prohibits "the threat or use of force against the...political independence of any state."

Therefore Be It Resolved that VFP calls on President Obama to immediately cease our hostile and aggressive posture towards Iran, withdraw all threats, end economic sanctions and seek normal diplomatic relations based on mutual respect and cooperation.

*Submitted by Eduardo Cohen*

*Chair, Veterans for Peace Working Group on Palestine and the Middle East*