

## What is Stand Fast

**Stand Fast** is a group of veterans and former military personnel who oppose the current wars of occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We who have borne arms  
denounce these wars because:

- These wars are about money, power and fear.
- Soldiers are people; they are our neighbours, our sons, daughters, brothers and sisters.
- Too many have died, often leaving behind partners, children and other loved ones.
- Many will carry the psychological scars for the rest of their lives.

Stand Fast seeks to add weight to the anti-war movement in Australia through organising veterans to speak out against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and by debunking the myth that "If you're against the war, you're against the troops."

If you are a veteran or  
have served in any armed  
forces and would like to get  
involved contact:  
phone **0401 586 923**  
or email  
**standfast.au@gmail.com**

Donate to Stand Fast  
deposit or transfer money to:  
Account Name: Stand Fast  
BSB: 064117  
Account No: 10330537

or send a cheque/money order to  
Stand Fast  
PO Box 8254  
WOOLLOONGABBA  
QLD 4102

**Stand  
Fast**  
Veterans against the  
Iraq and Afghan Wars



[www.stand-fast.webs.com](http://www.stand-fast.webs.com)

**NO MORE BLOOD FOR  
CORPORATE GREED  
SUPPORT  
THE TROOPS**

**Stand  
Fast**  
Veterans against the  
Iraq and Afghan Wars



**BRING THEM  
ALL HOME  
NOW**

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## Afghanistan is not “the good war”

The Federal Government, Opposition and military brass keep repeating two big lies about Afghanistan. The first; that it makes Australia and the world safer from terrorists and secondly that Australia troops are helping to bring democracy to Afghanistan.

The lie of making the world safer is completely shattered by the fact that the Afgan and U.S. Governments are spending a lot of money in bribes and offers of government positions to the very same terrorists our governemnt claims to making us safe from. On March 26 the Newsweek website reported official efforts to court Al Qaeda allies Hezb-i-Islami. A June 21 U.S. Congressional report titled Warlord Inc., Extortion and Corruption Along the U.S. Supply Chain revealed the U.S. military was paying tens of millions of dollars to warlords, corrupt officials and the Taliban to allow safe passage of its supply convoys.

This is not about democracy. Last year’s fraudulent elections showed that. If the people of Afghanistan were able to freely express their views, the majority would be in favour of the foreign troops leaving. They don’t get this chance so many are voting with their feet and joining the growing resistance. While the politicians feign concern for democracy in other countries they ignore it in their own; 61% of people in this country want the troops brought home.

The only freedom being fought for in Afghanistan is the freedom for multi-national corporations to exploit Afghanistan’s previously nationalised oil, gas and minerals for the private profit of a handful of people. Afghanistan is also important military real estate for the US to threaten other countries in the region like Iran who won’t allow free market access to their resources. No more troops should be exposed to death, injury or mental scarring for this.

## The hidden casualties of war

There are Australian casualties occurring everyday in Iraq and Afghanistan that no one sees or hears about.

No one who sees active service comes back the same. Recent figures from America have shown that troops coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan are suffering 3 times more Post Traumatic Stress Disorder than their counterparts did on return from Vietnam.

But it doesn’t just effect those who’ve been directly involved, it effects their children and even their grandchildren. A study conducted by the Partners of Veterans Association of Australia of 2500 children and grandchildren of Australian Vietnam veterans has found 70% of children and 30% of grandchildren suffer psychiatric or psychological problems. The average for Australia is 18%.

So currently the thousands of Australians sent to Iraq and Afghanistan each year equates to tens of thousands of lives adversely effected either directly or indirectly by mental health problems that has a flow on effect through generations to come.

So military personnel are risking their minds as well as their bodies and for what are we as people and as communities paying this high price for? For what are Iraqi and Afghani civilians paying with their bodies and their minds for? It is being done for oil, in the interests of multi-national corporations and it is being done for strategic real estate for the U.S. military.

**Stand Fast is encouraging current serving members of the Australian Defence Force to inform themselves about what is really happening in Iraq and Afghanistan. We also provide advice and support for those who may question serving in either of these wars.**

## “Sir, no sir”

During the Vietnam War an anti-war movement grew within the U.S. that by 1971 had, in the words of one colonel, infested the entire armed services. This group added great strength to the anti-war movement and by the Pentagon’s own figures, 503,926 “incidents of desertion” occurred between 1966 and 1971; and by 1971 entire units were refusing to go into battle in unprecedented numbers. In 1972 there was fear among some generals that the majority of their armed forces would mutiny and take control if the Vietnam War did not end soon.

Stand Fast also draws inspiration from U.S. based group Iraq Veterans Against the War. Today, in the U.S. hundreds of veterans travel to schools, universities and demonstrations to speak out against the war. It is testimonies like these from veterans that is having strong pull on people in the U.S. to protest against these wars.

“If a mate was convinced to do something you knew was pointless and dangerous you do what could to stop them. Even if it pissed them off,” Hamish Chitts, Stand Fast spokesperson on why Stand Fast supports the troops more than the brass bands, flag wavers and politicians.

