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Committee on Militarism and the Draft Records

1967-2021 (*Bulk:* 1980-1987)
3 boxes (1.5 linear feet)
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- [About SCUA](#)
 - [SCUA home](#)
 - [Credo digital](#)
- [Scope](#)
- [Overview](#)
 - [Series 1. Publications](#)
 - [Series 2. Clippings](#)
 - [Series 3. Administrative records and campaigns](#)
 - [Series 4. Photographs](#)
- [Inventory](#)
 - [Series 1. Publications](#)
 - [Series 2. Clippings](#)
 - [Series 3. Administrative records and campaigns](#)
 - [Series 4. Photographs](#)
- [Admin info](#)
- [Download](#)
 - [xml version](#)
 - [print version \(pdf\)](#)

[Read collection overview](#)

The Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft Records--originally named San Diego Committee Against Registration and the Draft--document the early organizing efforts of this grassroots anti-draft/militarism group. The collection includes every issue of COMD's newsletter Draft Notices, published from 1980 to the present as well as circular letters, pamphlets, posters, meeting minutes and agendas, press releases, correspondence, news clippings, and photographs from the 1979-1987 period.

Background on COMD

Formed in 1979 in the wake of a congressional vote on reinstating the draft, the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD) was formed by San Diego-based anti-war activists Bill Roe, Hoppy Chandler, Norm Lewis, Fritz Sands, and Rick Jahnkow. Originally a chapter of the national Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD), the group formed as a grassroots effort to defeat draft registration legislation, organize opposition to future drafts, and expand the network of anti-draft/militarism work. Early successes included organizing around legislation proposed by President Jimmy Carter to begin draft registration in response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, leafleting high schools over military recruiting, and supporting draft resisters, including Ben Sasway, a college student from North San Diego County who was among the first indicted for violating the Selective Service Act since the Vietnam War. Sasway was a student at North San Diego County College and

his prosecution was reportedly supported by Edwin Meese, a chief counsel to Ronald Reagan and a San Diego County resident. Sasway's prosecution led to national protests in over 100 cities and S.D. CARD supported him throughout his trial and 6 month imprisonment. This work led to the formation of the San Diego Draft Resisters Defense Fund (DRDF), a sub-group of S.D. CARD, to support Sasway and other future indictments. The DRDF was reorganized in 1988 and became a task force within S.D. CARD.

In addition to fighting prosecutions of draft resisters, S.D. CARD focused its efforts on counter recruitment campaigns in and around local high schools. This consisted of running anti-recruitment ads in high school newspapers and leafleting. In 1983, S.D. CARD sued a local school district over their efforts to prevent counter-recruitment ads from running in high school newspapers. The court case, which the Department of Justice attempted to join as a defendant on appeal, ruled that if the schools ran ads from military recruiters, they had to give equal time to an opposing view. This ruling set a precedent that emboldened other counter-recruitment groups and is still cited today. In addition, COMD has fought ROTC programs in schools

In 1983-84, S.D. CARD began to broaden its focus beyond draft work to include the anti-nuclear movement, U.S. military involvement in Central America and the Caribbean, immigration, the militarism of the U.S./Mexico border, discrimination in the military, military impacts on the environment, and other militarism-related issues to become a more inter-sectional organization. This prompted the group to change their name to the Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft and to joining other coalitions such as the San Diego Military Toxics Campaign, a coalition of groups educating the public on nuclear-powered aircraft carriers docked in San Diego, and the National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY). Today the group continues to fight state, local, and federal legislation related to the draft, including legislation in the 2020s that would expand draft registration to include women. COMD has also called for Congress to eliminate the Selective Service System and discontinue draft registration entirely.

Scope of collection

This small collection consists of a run of COMD's newsletter, Draft NOTICES from 1979 to 2021 as well as clippings, photographs, circular letters, fliers, legal documents, press releases, correspondence, minutes, and pamphlets primarily from the 1979-1987 period. The material documents COMD's campaigns, including the Ben Sasway campaign, as well as administrative material illustrating the inner workings of the group. There are also many newspaper clippings that document the national debate around the draft as well as COMD's activities during this time.

The material was originally assembled in scrapbooks by founding member Bill Roe. The scrapbooks have been disassembled and divided into four series.

Series descriptions

[Series 1. Publications](#)

1980-2021

Contains a complete run of the COMD's newsletter Draft NOTICES from 1980 to 2021. Each newsletter contains a variety of articles on topics ranging from draft legislation, draft resisters, youth campaigns, counter-recruiting, women and LGBTQIA+ military personnel, veterans, immigration, nuclear weapons, as well as information about CARD/COMD activities. Guest authors/activists often contribute articles to the newsletter.

[Series 2. Clippings](#)

1967-1988

Consists of several hundred newspaper clippings related to the proposed reinstatement of a mandatory draft in 1979, anti-draft campaigns and organizations, coverage of COMD actions, rallies, and events, draft-related legal cases, military recruitment in high schools, and the Ben Sasway case.

[Series 3. Administrative records and campaigns](#)

1979-1987

Contains circular letters, press releases, posters, pamphlets, meeting minutes, agendas/notes, and correspondence documenting the internal and external history of COMD. Included in this series is material documenting debates in high schools over military recruiting, Junior ROTC, reinstatement of the draft, the Ben Sasway case, and material from other U.S.-based anti-draft organizations.

[Series 4. Photographs](#)

1969-1984

Contains photographs taken at anti-draft rallies, protests, and benefits during the early to mid-1980s, including several. The photos document arrests, speakers, individuals, signs, banners, and crowds at protests, rallies and events. Some of the photos were taken by Rick Jahnkow. Includes three photos from a small anti-draft protest in California in 1969.

Inventory

Series 1. Publications

1980 - 2021

Newsletters

Draft NOTICES

1980 - 1982

Box 1: 1

Draft NOTICES

1983 - 1985

Box 1: 2

Draft NOTICES

1985 - 1986

Box 1: 3

Draft NOTICES

1987 - 1988

Box 1: 4

Draft NOTICES

1989 - 1990

Box 1: 5

Draft NOTICES

1991 - 1992

Box 1: 6

Draft NOTICES

1995 - 1996

Box 1: 7

Draft NOTICES

1997 - 1998

Box 1: 8

Draft NOTICES

1999 - 2000

Box 1: 9

Draft NOTICES

2001 - 2002

Box 1: 10

Draft NOTICES

2003 - 2004

Box 1: 11

Draft NOTICES

2005 - 2006

Box 1: 12

Draft NOTICES

2007 - 2008

Box 1: 13

Draft NOTICES

2009 - 2010

Box 1: 14
Draft NOTices
2011 - 2012
Box 1: 15
Draft NOTices
2013 - 2014
Box 1: 16
Draft NOTices
2015 - 2016
Box 1: 17
Draft NOTices
2017 - 2018
Box 2: 1
Draft NOTices
2019 - 2021
Box 2: 2
Draft NOTices: Duplicates
1980 - 1984
Box 2: 3
Series 2. Clippings
1967 - 1988
[Newspaper clippings]
[Newspaper clippings]
1967 - 1979
Box 2: 4
[Newspaper clippings]
1980 - 1981
Box 2: 5
[Newspaper clippings]
1982 - 1988
Box 2: 6
[Sasway, Ben: Clippings, articles]
1982 July - 1984 February
Box 2: 7
Series 3. Administrative records and campaigns
1969 - 1987
[Administrative documents, meeting minutes and agendas]
1979 July - 1983 January
Box 2: 8
[Circular letters/press releases from CARD and other anti-draft organizations]
1979 April - 1986 May
Box 2: 9
[Correspondence: Anti-draft groups, legislators, students]
1979 April - 1987 February
Box 2: 10
[Draft Resisting/anti-draft posters, handouts, pamphlets]
1980 - 1982
Box 3: 1
[Grossmont High School Campaign]
1983 - 1986
Box 3: 2
[Sasway, Ben: Letter - resister prosecutions 6/82 - 7/82]
1982 June - 1982 July
Box 3: 3
[Sasway, Ben: Fliers, handouts, newsletters, circular letters]
1980 - 1984
Box 3: 4
[State Student Financial Aid and the Draft Campaign]
1983 - 1984
Box 3: 5
Series 4. Photographs
1969 March - 1984 February 19
[Balboa Park, San Diego rally]
1980 March 22
Box 3: 6
[Ben Sasway: Arraignment - San Diego Federal Building]
1982 July 1
Box 3: 7
[Ben Sasway: Day before sentencing march - New Town Park, San Diego]
1982 October 3
Box 3: 8
[Ben Sasway: Indictment - Vista, CA]
1982 June 30
Box 3: 9
[Ben Sasway: Pre-indictment press conference]
1982 June 28
Box 3: 10
[Ben Sasway: Pre-trial hearing support rally - Balboa Parks, San Diego]
1982 August 14
Box 3: 11
[Ben Sasway: Last trial day, verdict vigil]
1982 August 26
Box 3: 12
[Ben Sasway: Sentencing]
1982 October 4
Box 3: 13
[Ben Sasway: Support vigils at Federal Jail, San Diego]
1982 August 29 - 1982 October 3
Box 3: 14
[CARD volunteers preparing mailers]
ca. 1983
Box 3: 15
[CARD running race fundraiser]
ca. 1983
Box 3: 16
["Celebrate life" protest]
1969 March
Box 3: 17
[Draft Board member training - San Diego, Catamaran Hotel]
1982 May 6
Box 3: 18
[High School Journalist New Conference UCSD]
1982 December 4

Box 3: 19
[International Disarmament Day - Ballast Point Submarine Base blockade, San Diego]
1983 June 20
Box 3: 20
[Joan Baez benefit concert for Draft Resisters Defense Fund - photos by Barbara Brzozowski]
1984 February 19
Box 3: 21
[Michael Hohmeyer, Lee Goland, Ben Sasway - CARD General Meeting]
1982 June 17
Box 3: 22
[San Diego Federal Building protest]
1979 July 4
Box 3: 23
[UCSD CARD rally]
1982 November 23
Box 3: 24
[Unidentified rallies: Panoramic photos]
ca. 1983
Box 3: 25
[U.S. out of El Salvador rally/march]
ca. 1983
Box 3: 26

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Rick Jankhow, 2021.

Processing Information

Processed by EK Schlegel and Sarah Tonks, September 2022.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use ([More information](#))

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Search terms

Subjects

- Bills, Legislative
- Carter, Jimmy, 1924-
- Draft
- Draft registration--Law and legislation--United States
- Draft registration--United States
- Draft resisters--United States
- Militarization
- Military service, voluntary
- Military spending--United State
- National service
- Reagan, Ronald
- Roe, Bill
- Sasway, Ben
- Student movements
- United States--Armed Forces--Recruiting, enlistment, etc.
- United States.Army.Junior ROTC

Contributors

- Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (San Diego, Calif.) [main entry]

Genres and formats

- Circular letters
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Fliers (printed matter)
- Newsletters
- Newspapers
- Pamphlets
- Photographs
- Posters
- Press releases



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