

# Military Families Speak Out

April 2022

## Troops Home Now!

### MFSO Members Speak Out About Ukraine:

*Last month we were very happy to receive several responses to the MFSO position statement the MFSO board composed. We believe it is important to consider and share all perspectives from MFSO members on this issue:*

I think my starting point on this is the invasion by the Russians. This went on in Syria and Chechnya so we shouldn't be too surprised. While I agree with many of those who brought up the history of NATO, membership to NATO is secondary. What's primary is that Ukraine has been invaded and Ukrainians have a right to decide their own future. Not us. We are removed from the conflict. The Ukrainians are in a difficult spot because they are being slaughtered by the Russians. They have the right to get arms from whatever country they want, including imperialist countries. For their own safety, however, they need to be wary of the countries from which they purchase their arms.

Barry Saks

MFSO

Long Beach, CA

I find that I have a different view from some of my Peace friends about Ukraine. Too many folks seem to blame Biden and NATO and ignore the outrageous invasion and the destruction that is happening. I condemn it as much as I condemned the invasion of Iraq, and the Israeli occupation of the Palestinians. I have a first-hand experience of Eastern Europe, and long ago saw through the romance of thinking the USSR was some sort of worker's paradise. Have had many arguments with my fellow Lefties on that one! I hope you are all well, and appreciate that MFSO is continuing its work.

Peace, Celeste Zappala

Gold Star Mom

Philadelphia, PA

Russia's decision to begin a "special military action" in Ukraine was largely due to Vladimir Putin's assumption that the West would not take any strong actions against it. A few sanctions were put on Russia when he took Crimea, but that price was well worth having a port. If Ukraine were part of NATO, this never would have happened. If stronger actions were taken against Russia at that time, this would not have happened. Hundreds, if not thousands, of innocent Ukrainian lives would not have been lost. If the West shows weakness, Russia will next take the rest of Georgia that it has not already annexed in its 2008 war. Perhaps Putin will then go after additional independent nations that are not part of NATO. Putin has threatened to use nuclear weapons if he feels that Russia is in danger. He will define what danger is however and whenever he wishes. I support President Biden sending additional US troops to NATO nations, especially Poland, to prevent further Russian aggression.

Anna Berlinrut

Marine Mom

Connecticut

It's really scary. I'm all for supporting Ukraine and am not against weapons sales because we sell weapons to everyone else, so why not Ukraine? I'm okay inviting Ukraine into NATO, but not now of course. You can't blame Ukrainians for wanting protection and I admire them for their ability to defend themselves against Russia. The boycotts aren't working, maybe stopping oil imports into Russia would, but I don't think there is any non-violent way to stop Putin. What's bothering me most is the way the media is covering this event. It's horrible watching all the bombings and the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. It's like the media is building

things up. Where was the media when our families were fighting in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria? I couldn't find out anything about my kids when they were deployed there. They didn't even give us one tenth of media coverage back then- and it was our US soldiers! I'm glad European countries like Poland are welcoming Ukrainian refugees like they should, but I'll bet they won't be housed in overflowing, ravaged camps like the refugees from the Middle East, Central America and Haiti were.

Deborah Jordan  
Army mom of two  
Torrance, CA

I think we can't just sit there and watch Putin destroy Ukraine and not do anything. We forced his hand and now he's forcing ours. We didn't make him invade Ukraine. He did this on his own. This is a tough place to be, being a member of MFSO and being the verge on WW III.

Don Kimball  
Marine Uncle  
Portland, Maine

The situation in Ukraine makes me sick to my stomach. We don't know what to do. President Biden doesn't know what to do either. I look at the example of how the people in Iran defended themselves with no help for 40 years. We can't constantly throw weaponry at nations in need of defense. We should stay where we are and keep doing what we're doing with humanitarian aid and sanctions and keep our military out of it for now. Let's see what comes out of the peace talks, but really the people of Ukraine need to stand up for themselves and not leave their country.

Angela Khansari  
Mom of Navy Pilot  
Huntington Beach, CA.

The media-political establishment is feeding us nothing but propaganda and lies. No context, no history, no perspective. I cannot support anything that condemns Russia without also condemning the US, NATO and Ukraine itself. Same old , same old....

Bill Scheurer  
Illinois

## **In the News:**

**Round 2 of Peace talks for Ukraine start this week but demands may be too high** : Ukraine Seeking Peace 'Without Delay' in Talks” but it looks like he will only talk to Putin. [Link](#)

**Is the U.S. Senate wanting to start their own war?** Several US senators press general to redeploy troops to Somalia. [Link](#)

## **News from the MFSO Board:**

The AUMF committee plans to kick off our AUMF Campaign in April so look out for our email. Your board members have developed some good material and ideas for the campaign. Let's put the power to declare war back in the hands of congress! If you would like to help plan this campaign call Jeff at 562-522-4241.

## **From Jeff's desk**

With Ukraine getting most of the news coverage, very little has been said about the Biden's Military 2023 budget released March 28. [Read summary from DOD](#) [Link to copy of budget](#) and other material.

editing by: Jeff Merrick & Pat Alviso

**4,586 American Troops killed in Iraq; 2,465 American Troops killed in Afghanistan**