

To the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting:

My beliefs at this time are still crystallizing. I don't know at this time in my life if I would register as a CO, but I do know that I could not kill a person while participating in war. I am against the present war in Iraq, not because of a political stance, but because it is the only war I am presently witnessing. Therefore, it is the war in Iraq that has made me think about my own views about personal participation in war.

I am a Quaker and was raised under certain beliefs that are common to our meeting. One of the most important for me is that killing another person is unacceptable. This does not mean that I would refuse to join the military. Innocent people get injured in war, and I feel an obligation to help and to serve my country. However, this obligation falls short when it comes to taking someone's life. My dad was in the Air Force. I respect his views but sometimes they stand against typical Quaker views. So, at this point in my life, if I were drafted, I would seek I-A-O status, in which I would participate in the military but would refuse to be a combatant. I could serve as a medic or a similar role which would be consistent with my current beliefs. I would like to thank the meeting for support and to ask the meeting to please keep this letter for documentation.

Sincerely,

Andrew Barker.