

January 16,  
2013

# GOOD JOBS, NOT WAR JOBS!

FLIR Systems, one of Oregon's most prominent military contractors, produces Forward Looking InfraRed (FLIR) and other equipment heavily used by the military. Their equipment is likely used in the ongoing night raids in Afghanistan and probably by the Navy Seal team that killed Osama Bin Laden. FLIR racked up \$170 million in military contracts in 2012, and over \$1.3 billion total in the last 5 years with all the branches of the military.

FLIR has also contracted with the Customs and Border Protection for thermal imaging devices to be used on the Mexican border, and the government of Colombia in 2008 and 2009 for almost \$25 million for "counter narcotics and counter terror" use of their devices.\*



The World Leader in Thermal Imaging



Peace groups picked January 16 to protest FLIR because it marks exactly 22 years since the Gulf War (part one) began in 1991, and is the day following Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday, the day George Bush I declared the deadline for Iraq to get out of Kuwait. On April 4, 1964, MLK said: "I knew that I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed in the ghettos without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today — my own government... We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

The money used to occupy Iraq and Afghanistan should be brought home and put to use for jobs, education, health care, and other human needs. Creating jobs to further US military occupations and attacks does not lead to a better society or a more peaceful world. While FLIR's systems may have legitimate uses for search and rescue and other such humanitarian based operations, their use includes and is promoted for such purposes as "target designation."

A recent poll showed that 52% of Americans now think that the 2003 invasion of Iraq was "not worth it," even though there was 76% support when Saddam Hussein's regime fell in April 2003 (*USA Today*, May 2005). Even though military contractors' efforts may seem to be for popular actions today, the future may tell a different story.

For example, Engility Holdings Inc. of Chantilly, VA, a contractor which provided translators to the military, paid out over \$5 million recently to detainees who had been at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq (*USA Today*, January 8, 2013). In November, KBR, which exposed Oregon National Guard members to cancerous hexavalent chromium, was hit with a fine of \$85 million (*Oregonian*, November 3, 2012).

The best course for Oregonians and all Americans is to create jobs that support building community, not causing death and destruction. Good jobs, not war jobs!

\* all info is available on the FLIR website [www.flir.com](http://www.flir.com)

Today's action is one of several leading up to the 10th anniversary of the March 19, 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Saturday, February 16: Journalist **Reese Erlich** will be in Portland discussing 10 years in Iraq, Syria, Iran and other US foreign policy matters. 7 PM, location TBA.

Tuesday, March 19: 3:30-5:30 PM: Visibility action "US Out of Iraq," downtown Portland; 7 PM talk by **Cathy Breen** of Voices for Creative Nonviolence about her November 2012 visit to Iraq and conditions there after 10 years of occupation in the Buchan Room at First Unitarian Church, 1011 SW 12th.

This flyer was prepared January 2013 by the  
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Contact us about our meetings !