

Vigil for

Environmental Costs of War

"Even if every person in America decided to stop driving today and even if every polluting factory in the country voluntarily shut down its operations right now, the land and the animals and the water and the air - those things that we generally include by referring to them as the environment - would still face a most serious assault," according to Barry Sanders, author of *The Green Zone: The Environmental Costs of Militarism*.

"And, ironically, that greatest single assault on the environment, on all of us around the globe, comes from one agency ... the armed forces of the United States."

The armored vehicles, planes and luxury planes of the U.S. military consume close to two million reported gallons of fuel every day.

Consider the fact that the F-16 fighter jet uses 1,680 gallons of fuel per hour, "as much fuel in that one hour as in three years of driving for the average American." To reach supersonic speeds, the fighter turns on its afterburners and uses up 14,400 gallons per hour.

Sanders estimates that the military pumps 400 million pounds of greenhouse gases a day - or 73 million tons a year - into the atmosphere. This equals the driving of 14.6 million cars for the same period and it does not count the building of military bases, air conditioners, or bombs (which produce huge amounts of greenhouse gases as they explode).

The Vigil for Peace was initiated by the Albany Friends Meeting and Peace Action. Find out how you can work for peace. Call 518-595-9324

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