



Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network, Inc.

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To Everyone Concerned:

After accomplishing the victory of forcing the Army to keep the relocation plan for local residents who could be affected by the toxic smoke from the burn, FOEJN Executive Director suggested that we take more of our flyers door-to-door to alert residents of the short deadline to sign up for relocation. For approximately six hours we walked in Preston Park, the section for Peninsula Outreach (women & children) & the section of Preston Park that I live in. We walked and talked to residents about where to go and sign up for the relocation program, at the Oldemeyer Center and BRAC office on Fort Ord. We also left flyers on residents doors, if no one was home.

Residents told us that they had no information about the burn relocation at the time. If anything was received in the mail, it was not understandable to them, to make it readable. We listened to concerns about health problems, not being able to afford rent increases of \$60.00 a month, no jobs, the lack of health care for families, and how tenants are treated and disregarded. Connie Jo introduced me to a senior, retired Army officer who was very concerned about relocating. His wall was filled with Certificates of Valor, from his active duty days. Now he can hardly afford to pay to live in his home. He was taking care of a lady, whose dad started Fort Ord. This lady was having animals eat out of her hand. Once while feeding deer (along time ago), some young men were hunting and shoot at the deer, but unfortunately she was hit instead of the deer, with six bullets. She is still alive and both her and the retired officer came to our office for more information.

We could not reach everyone in Preston Park, and Abrams Park because the areas are too large and we had other areas to cover. We plan on continuing The Marshall Park housing area is where military families are located. The family members were upset because they had no information from their housing office. They were extremely upset that they had to sign a least saying that they knew of lead and asbestos being present in their homes. The residents told of illnesses such as shortness of breath, CO2

poisoning, chest pains. They were extremely concerned about their children. One Army wife told of a friend she has who is living in the Fitch Park housing area, in what was described as new housing. She was receiving phone calls from her friend about the place seeming as though it was falling apart. I met a man who asked to shake my hand because he appreciated what we were doing. He stated that people needed to know what was happening to them. He then went on to say that he was a military policeman at the Navy school in Monterey, CA. He asked for some of our flyers to give out to others. I gave him flyers to pass out.

I had spoken to Kris Escarda about older residents with mobility problems and the possibility of faxing forms with their information and phone numbers. Kris sent me an email that stated that residents had to be present. We then drove to Seaside, CA. to pass on information that was given to Kris from the Army, that residents had to be present at Army relocation sign-up site to take part in the relocation program, mobility problem or not. Some had motorized wheelchairs, one elderly lady could not get her motorized wheelchair out of her house, so she had to prop herself up on a cane (with her leg wrapped up), get to her car and drive over to the center, and do the same thing again to get into the center. I saw two of the seniors on the news later who were asked why they came to sign up for relocation. She responded "because that smoke kills people". The camera was immediately taken off of her. One of the other seniors was also interviewed, and she stated that she did not want to take a chance with her health; likewise the camera was removed very fast.

On the news the night of the Oldemeyer sign-up, Gail Youngblood was asked about the funds for residents to relocate, she responded by saying that anyone who feels that they will be exposed to the smoke, who lives on the peninsula can sign up. The reporter asked her where does the money come from, and she responded that a half million dollars had already been set aside for residents to use for burn relocation. I was shocked, because I already knew that the funds did not come out of local Army budget, and that there was no reason to let FORA burn in 2005, with no relocation program.

Everyone my name is Jana and I am an intern with FOEJN this summer. On July 12th 2006 we were going door to door in different housing areas to inform the local community of the army's planned burn for the summer and the hard won Relocation Program that was available and what they need to do to sign up. When we went to Marshal Park the people that we encountered hadn't heard anything about the burn or the relocation program and were very grateful for the information. They also had some concerns of their own that they wished to share. The first person that I heard the story from was some of the military wives. They asked me if

there was anything that FOEJN could do to help them. Since moving into the housing area, some of their husband's and young children had been having lots of breathing difficulties and they were wondering about the possibility of lead and asbestos in the buildings and the health impacts to them as well as their unborn babies.

My name is Connie Jo, I have a disability called Huntington's gene which is part neurological & physician, where the legs would be in constant motion, but luckily I get around pretty darn good. I knew that this was important and I wanted to make sure that I helped to get this information to the residents who did not have it. I tried to tell a Spanish speaking individual about the relocation, but he did not understand me. I went on to another house and encountered a senior couple from India, they had limited English but their son would be home in a while and could read the flyer to them. I also spoke with a senior Army Officer who wanted to make sure that he was signed up to relocate.

Sincerely,

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