

## **Conference on problems of veterans to be held at San Diego State University**

**May 15, 1974**

A three-day conference to discuss the problems faced by veterans with "less than honorable discharges" will be held Tuesday through Thursday, May 21 through 23, at the Aztec Center at San Diego State University.

The conference, sponsored by the San Diego County Vet Taskforce, the Pro Vet Center, and the San Diego V.E.T.S. project, will be conducted by two members of the San Francisco based "Discharge Upgrade Project." The two, Mike McCann and Dave Pollock, have conducted orientation and training programs for people working with veterans in the bay area for about one and a half years.

The San Diego conference is designed for people who work with veterans and veterans' organizations rather than the veterans themselves. The opening session on Tuesday will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will offer an overview of the problems facing veterans with other than honorable discharges.

The Wednesday and Thursday sessions will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will deal with specific problems and possible solutions for the veterans. Cost for participation in the conference is \$5.00 for the Tuesday session only or \$10.00 for all three days.

According to Dr. George Weston, head of veterans affairs at Southwestern College, there are currently some 460,000 less than honorable discharge holders in the United States.

"The majority of the draftees serving in Viet Nam came from lower income neighborhoods," Weston said, "the fact that makes it even harder for those with undesirable or bad conduct discharges to get jobs."

According to the Washington, D.C. based American Veterans Committee, many veterans with less than honorable discharges do not realize that they can have their case reviewed if the discharge is not the result of a general court-martial. Also, it is not well-known that veterans with an undesirable discharge or, in some instances, a bad conduct discharge, can receive veterans administration benefits. If the VA determines that the discharge was given under conditions other than dishonorable, the veteran is entitled to the same benefits as one discharged under honorable conditions.

Those interested in more information on the three-day conference should call Skip Swalley at the Pro Vet Center, 233-5196 or contact the Aztec Center at SDSU.

(May 15, 1974)